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SOCCER WEEKLY

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★★★ NSL Round 2: All the highlights and lowlights pages 11-13 ★★★

EXCLUSIVE

REAL CHAMP

A Special Tribute to Charlie Perkins

By Former Australian World Cup Captain **Johnny Warren**

There were only three loves in Charlie Perkins' life. His Family, wife Eileen, daughters Hetti and Rachel and son Adam.

His other well-publicised love, in fact his life, was Aboriginal Affairs.

Little publicised, (and not surprisingly), was his love for football.

This was a real passion, not the type of 'passion' every new 'fly-by-night' administrator or oblique/marketer tells us about on the Australian Soccer scene, but a real life time love affair with the game.

Football played a significant part in Charlie's life, in fact it was Adelaide Hellas and Adelaide Croatia which first gave Charlie the taste of 'Big Time Football'.

More importantly, it was the Greek and Croatian communities in Adelaide that Charlie told me which treated him, for the first time in his life, as an equal.

He never stopped singing the praises of those communities in our long relationship.

It was also the Greek community at Pan Hellenic, (now Sydney Olympic), which embraced Charlie when he moved to Sydney in the late 50s.

It was the match fees from Pan Hellenic that enabled him to pay his way through the University of Sydney to ultimately become the first-ever Aboriginal University graduate.

His promising football career was cut short due to his Aboriginal cause which led by Charlie, overtook everything else, sadly including his football career.

Sadly, because Charlie was a skilled midfielder whose attitude to the game, immediately won over the hearts of the Greek community.

Continued on page 2

Charlie Perkins with Johnny Warren as teammates in an 'Old Boys' team in Canberra.

PERKINS HAS HIS LAST KICK PAGES 2, 3 & 10

THE GOOD OIL ... PAGES 4-5

OLE GUNNER SOLSKJAER COLOUR POSTER

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PAGES 20-21 & 26

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Colosimo to save Carlton's blues

By Bert van Bedaf

Olyroos and Socceroos defender, and possibly the most talented player in Australia, Simon Colosimo is about to do a Mark Viduka and save his club from financial collapse.

Viduka's transfer from Dynamo Zagreb to Glasgow Celtic a few seasons ago put his former club, the Melbourne Knights, on solid financial footing - now Colosimo can do the same for Carlton.

Currently in England, Colosimo is likely to join Middlesbrough in the English Premier League. It appears rival club Sunderland also has put in a bid, but the Boros may be showing deeper pockets.

Carlton owner Peter Jess was also in England last week to wrap up the deal in a desperate bid to keep Carlton afloat this season.

Colosimo's transfer to Middlesbrough is believed to be worth $2.3 million. Of that amount, Soccer Australia, the Professional Players Union, Colosimo's former club Melbourne Raiders, and the player himself will demand a share before Jess can recoup (some of) his investment and top up the depleted Carlton coffers.

Carlton is still hopeful it can sell its other Olyroo, Archie Thompson, to Austrian champions Sturm Graz. An earlier attempt to sell fell through, apparently because Carlton's asking price was too high. But Jess is reviving negotiations in a bid to clinch a second sale for his stricken club.

Simon Colosimo: Rescue deal.

Meanwhile, less than 1500 spectators watched Carlton draw 2-2 with Wollongong.

The crowd figure should surprise no-one, because it is about what Carlton's support entails no matter where they play, Optus Oval, Olympic Park, Bob Jane stadium or shortly in Epping, its fourth abode in four seasons.

The Melbourne Knights named the grandstand after Viduka at Sunshine.

Carlton won't be able to have a Colosimo stand. Like the other Melbourne nomads, the defunct Brunswick United Juventus (later Melbourne Zebras) before them, the Blues haven't got a stadium to call their own.

TALKING WITH MR ED

Unfortunately this week I need to start on a sad note – not for the first time in recent weeks.

After the untimely deaths of both Joe Watson and Geoff Gunning recently another footballing stalwart has pushed his final pass.

ABSW's condolences go out to the Perkins family as Charlie Perkins was a true fighter in every sense of the word.

We are happy to have a special tribute by former World Cup captain Johnny Warren as well as numerous features on pages 3 and 10.

Mr.Perkins, may you rest in peace.

After another big week of NSL action it was great to see some great crowds back in the game after they were disappointingly down in round 1. We had over 10 000 at North Sydney, over 14 000 at Perth and over 15 000 at Marathon. What a great effort by the Novacastrian faithful. Let's keep it up now.

In the past week ABSW has been inundated with letters, calls and emails concerning both Channel 7 (and their disdain of the NSL) and also Channel 9 (who have won the rights to the next world cup and are not screening all the matches). See our letters page 15.

My real question is: Why are SBS always given the raw deal? They have been the only ones that have looked after soccer well. Donít Soccer Australia and the commercial networks know that SBS stands for Soccer Broadcasting Station!

There was another full round of Champions league games last week with all the reports and tables on pages 20-21 and 26.

Finally, it seems coaches are always in the wars. The German coach elect has been caught for substance abuse and sacked before taking his post and the current caretaker has been ruled out (page 30). Sounds like the everpresent saga with the English coach (page 31).

Ed.

Knights on Keeper Unit

By Bert van Bedaf

An unfortunate training accident has sidelined Knights regular 'keeper Martin John for at least a month. John injured his shoulder badly diving for the ball and will need to undergo intensive treatment.

Lou Acevski stood under the bar against Parramatta. The former Preston 'keeper who came to the Knights last season together with coach Vlado Vanis has been pressing for a spot in pre-season matches. Vanis opted for John, but Acevski will now have his chance to prove himself.

Knights youth 'keeper Damir Salcin sat on the bench, revealing how thin the Knights keepers' ranks are, although the club has had a tradition of spectacular and talented 'keepers. The reason John found himself as a regular 'keeper was because Joe Didulica transferred to Dutch giant Ajax Amsterdam.

But injury has placed the Knights in something of a minor 'keeper's crisis. The Knights might find an experienced 'keeper in South Melbourne's discard Milan Udvaracz.

The Hungarian was hailed as South's new regular keeper two seasons ago, but somehow did not settle at Bob Jane stadium. He was replaced with Chris Jones, who now finds himself on the bench with the return of Michael Petkovic.

South is keen to "offload" Udvaracz, now the club's youth 'keeper, according to club general manager Damien Phillips. A former general manager of the Knights, Phillips visited Sunshine last Sunday and commented Udvaracz was available.

PROBLEMS PLAGUE VISA BRIT

By Graham Cooke

British-born Barry Guilford could have walked into professional football after spending time on Premier League Chelsea's books as a junior, but decided instead to study for a career.

He went to university, gained a degree and took jobs in business marketing, but on a working holiday in Australia, the soccer bug bit again.

He had a trial for Canberra Cosmos and coach Tom Sermanni decided he wanted him in his squad.

Now the problems begin. Guilford has a working visa, but not a sports visa - that's a situation to be sorted out with the Department of Immigration — but also a factor is a Soccer Australia ruling that only overseas players who have appeared professionally for clubs in their own country can play in the NSL.

Sermanni was in despair over ever getting the midfielder and defender into his squad.

"He is an excellent talent and I have played him in the pre-season friendlies, but it really seems we have hit a brick wall," he said.

"It's a great shame if he is denied a chance simply because he has done the right thing and got qualifications and work experience before launching out in a playing career. The game needs more of his kind, not less."

Meanwhile the Cosmos could take some encouragement from a mid-week 3-1 win over the Singapore national squad in Canberra.

Goals from Jon Angelucci, Alex Castro and Daniel Camara kept Canberra in control before Singapore got one back in the closing minutes.

The game still left Sermanni with concerns — not least in the centre of defence where he needs a specialist.

"Some of our players are still not fully match fit and you could see that against Singapore where we drifted off a bit towards the end," he said.

"We are not going to get away with that against national league opponents."

Real Champ

Continued from Page 1.

In fact the last time I saw Charlie was when I took him to a Sydney Olympic match at Belmore Sports Ground late last season.

The older Sydney Olympic fans treated him like royalty that day.

Such was his long term popularity with the Greeks.

Charlie enjoyed the outing and we agreed to do it on a more regular basis this season.

As Charlie's Aboriginal Affairs career blossomed, becoming the first ever Aboriginal Head of a Commonwealth Department in Canberra, Charlie then returned to Football to become the Chairman of Canberra City in the early days of the NSL, and until his death , President of the Australian Futsal (Indoor) Federation.

Charlie loved playing and the relationship he had with other players, as he did every Sunday morning at Rose Bay until very recent times.

At Canberra City he was instrumental in organising our 'Old Boys' team which won the 6th Division 'Double' in 1984 against all the 'Young Guns' of the ACT.

Danny and Theo Moulis, Mick Black, Kenny Kawalevu, Ivan Gruicic, Steve Doszpot and myself were among Charlie's team-mates in what was my most enjoyable season as a footballer.

Although playing against Charlie in the late 50s and early 60s, it wasn't until my 20 years in Canberra that I became mates with Charlie.

His public persona was greatly misleading.

He was anything but the 'abrasive stirrer' that the public saw.

In fact quite the opposite.

The head of a beautiful family, warm hearted in helping people less fortunate and always one of the boys, loving nothing more than the mateship and the camaraderie football offered him.

At the height of his professional career, he was arguably the most powerful man in Australia.

I often sat with Charlie opposite Prime Ministers like Malcolm Fraser and Bob Hawke where Charlie first argued on Aboriginal matters and with equal passion on football matters.

Sadly, (but not surprisingly), Soccer Australia, over many regimes, wanted nothing to do with him, similar to Frank Lowy, now the second wealthiest man in the country.

I saw Charlie using the same confrontational tactics against the Government and businesses which he used so successfully for Aboriginal Affairs being utilised for Football.

Like Aboriginal Affairs, football is discriminated against, and still is.

It is treated with disrespect and regarded as second class in our Australian Sporting Community.

Charlie was the type of guy with the power and means to change all that.

Lowy and Perkins, real football people.

Both wanted to help,but were discarded in the political masquerade of Australian Soccer.

Charlie greeted all his former players and mates with a cheery "How are you champ".

By any standards, he was a great Australian, a great mate to many and a great and real football fan.

In the great sporting tradition of the Aboriginal people, it's amazing that only Charlie , Johnny Moriarty and Harry Williams have made it in our game.

We could do worse than establish a scholarship in Charlie's name to develop the undoubted potential of Aboriginal kids in our Football.

To his family and many friends, and on behalf of the football community, we offer our deepest condolences.

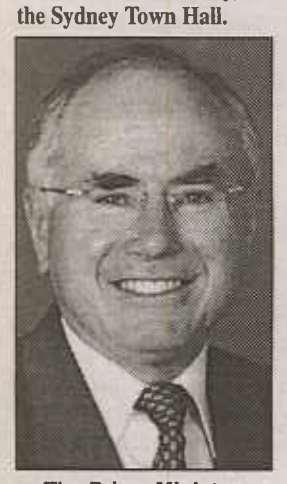
"It was a great honour and pleasure to know you champ".

ABSW's new email: soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au
soccerweekly@hotmail.com still available

It's Been Great Knowing You Charlie

By John Economos

CHARLIE PERKINS, Aboriginal activist and Soccer player extraordinaire, who at the age of 64 finally succumbed to his kidney problems that ended his life last Tuesday, will receive a State Funeral tomorrow (Wednesday) at the Sydney Town Hall.



The Prime Minister: Mr John Howard.

After the service in Sydney, Charlie's body will be flown to Adelaide, (where he first surfaced as a star Soccer player), for cremation.

His ashes will then be flown to Alice Springs, (Charlie's place of birth), and rested alongside his Mother's (Hetti) grave.

The Prime Minister, Mr John Howard, despite political differences, publicly displayed his personal respect for Perkins the man, when he immediately authorised that Charlie be given a State Funeral, an honour bestowed and reserved only for Prime Ministers or State Premiers.

Many years ago Charlie had undergone a kidney transplant.

Thus in reality from that day on he was living on borrowed time.

For the last eight weeks, Perkins was connected to a dialysis machine around the clock.

A real fighter by character, Charlie last Tuesday finally lost the battle with his rapidly declining health.

Charlie Perkins, (as the whole of Australia knew him), was a real and aggressive fighter for the cause; mainly for his people, the Australian Aboriginals.

But what the general public rarely got to know, was the fact that this dedicated fighter, endowed with super intelligence plus a sharp vision, above all else, possessed a huge heart.

Charlie wore his aggressive exterior personality, braced with his trademark rapid rhetorics, as a 'battle-dress' whenever he prepared for a fight to win a political objective.

That image was Charlie's 'battle-dress' in the political arena.

He was a real leader who led by personal example.

But the real Charlie in private life was totally different?

What was concealed under this 'battle-dress' was a very warm human being, steeped with compassion.

He was bluntly honest, sincere and most of all, very loyal.

This fellow was direct.

Charlie Perkins (left), seen here at an NSL Awards Night with SBS-TV Personality Player of the Year, Frank Farina, the then Prime Minister Bob Hawke, and former Australian World Cup captain, Johnny Warren.

A real goal-scorer who got things done.

He possessed unyielding energies as he relentlessly strived to break down hurdles that confronted him in all his life.

Although tenacious in his battles, Charlie's objectives were always honourable.

Beating around the bush was not his forte.

The Australian Soccer Federation installed Charlie Perkins as a Vice President in the late 60s, but only for a very brief period.

Soccer never used him correctly.

Charlie got sick of the in-house politics that impeded, (as always), the game.

Having personally known this man for the past 24 years, (obviously through Soccer), Charlie Perkins rarely suffered fools.

He was lightening quick to realise whenever some fool attempted to waste his time, deceive him or even venture to insult his intelligence with verbal crap.

On one occasion when we were together in Canberra, one such fool tried his luck to do exactly just that.

In a flash Charlie turned on him and staring him right in the eyes from very close range, sternly stated: "Look here mate, we're not here chopping wood for practice.

"If you want to light bushfires go somewhere else", he ended.

In the early 60s, Charlie Perkins played as a left midfielder for Pan Hellenic, (now named Sydney Olympic).

It was in fact Pan Hellenic that sponsored Charlie through the University Of Sydney from where he graduated with an Arts Degree.

Soccer had given Charlie his chance to get ahead in life with a sound tertiary education.

On or off the pitch, Charlie Perkins was a real competitor.

Today's President of NSW Soccer Federation, Mr Peter Gray, a solid and reliable goalkeeper during his playing days, actually played against Charlie when he later transferred to Bankstown.

"Charlie was hard as nails and would never pull out of a challenge.

"He would knock you over, then be the first to pick you up and dust you down.

"He was a real Aussie,

Mr Peter Gray: President of the NSW Soccer Federation.

extremely honest and a very direct competitor," the NSW Soccer boss stated to ABSW.

Without doubt, Charlie Perkins you were a real human being, and a good mate.

It's been great knowing you Charlie.

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

By John Economos

A CALLGIRL agency to sponsor three NSL Clubs. Oh really?

In recent years sponsorships in sport have become scarce.

The ones that are still going around have become leaner and meaner with their 'clients'.

Not quite so, according to a report that leaked out in Sydney last week.

It's believed an exclusive call-girl agency,(based in Sydney), has approached three clubs in the NSL.

The Callgirl agency is believed to be more than willing to extend to them lucrative sponsorships.

The exclusive Callgirl agency, ('Madam Fleiss'), was most eager to break into the Australian sporting field and it's understood that the Agency first approached some Aussie Rules clubs in Melbourne two weeks back.

The Agency was very keen to offer some $300,000 cash to the clubs for naming rights on their shirts.

It appears that certain cash-starved Rules clubs seemed quite interested to say the least.

But the Australian Football League automatically stepped in and blocked such potential dealings.

For the moment, 'Good Oil' has been unable to verify which three NSL clubs had also been approached by the 'Madam Fleiss' Agency.

But it does have a rough idea of one such club.

However what 'Good Oil' has been able to ascertain is, that the callgirl agency, has been unable to bed-down any deals to date.

'Good Oil' also assumes, should some sponsorship offerings eventuate to any one of the three NSL clubs targetted, all possible 'contra-deals' would be frowned upon by Soccer Australia.

●●●●

THE NSW SOCCER FEDERATION and the NSW AMATEURS, are expected this week to sign a 'peace-treaty' that will at long last see the official unification of the two powerful Soccer authorities.

The necessary documentation has already been sent out to all members for them to sign.

●●●●

RED CARDS seemed to be the order of the day last weekend in Round 2 of the NSL.

No less than Six were issued in four matches played, by the 'Men In Black'.

Referee A Nardi at the Hindmarsh Stadium, 'top scored' by issuing two reds in the clash between Adelaide City and Sydney United where he marched Nick Sabljak and Terry Palapanis.

The six sent off were Sabljak (Adcity), Palapanis (Sydney United), David Milin (Canberra Cosmos), Robbie Trajkovski (Perth Glory), Steve Panopoulos (South Melbourne) and Andrew Marth (Carlton).

Whilst on the 'cards' issue, no less than a massive 36 yellow cards were issued last weekend in seven of the eight matches.

Last Saturday night at the Marconi Stadium clash between Marconi and the Canberra Cosmos, not one single yellow card was issued by Sydney's experienced referee, Brett Hugo.

Andrew Marth: Carlton's midfield — enforcer.

Hugo however did not go 'cardless', dishing out just one red to Canberra Cosmos' central defender David Milin, 17 minutes before the break.

●●●●

SYDNEY UNITED's new nickname for the new season is 'the Bravehearts'. And having such lion-hearted players in its line-up such as veteran striker Francis Awaritefe, no wonder.

The 36-year-old lanky goalscorer, seems to want to go on and on.

Having parted company at the end of last season with Marconi, it seemed that Big 'Franny' was not going to be wanted by any clubs.

Not so however. Step in one Alan Hunter, coach of Sydney United, who welcomed the gangling striker with open arms.

During pre-season games, Awaritefe scored a bag of goals, including against his old club Marconi in a friendly.

Last Friday night against a tight Adelaide City defence, the dread-locked Franny stacked on not one, but both of United's goals that went a huge way to grabbing all three precious away League points.

Now United has played two, won two.

Not too bad at all, considering United, last season's cellar dwellers had won just five over the whole season.

Francis Awaritefe: Scored a double in Adelaide.

To date they're most certainly aptly named 'the Bravehearts'.

●●●●

A SECOND team from sunny Queensland is very keen to step into the National Soccer League.

The Lion-hearted Club in question has extremely sound financial footings with a thriving social complex plus an adjacent main Soccer pitch that is more than acceptable for the NSL and is surrounded by training fields.

The entire set up is very similar to a scaled down version that exists at Club Marconi in Sydney.

The keen Queenslanders that are pilotted by a strong and visionary management team, have been carrying out serious dialogue with officials of the National Soccer League as well as with Soccer Australia over the past 10 days.

The Club officials have expressed more than a strong desire to enter the National League, not some time in the distant future, but as early as next season.

●●●●

PETER GRAY, President of the NSW Soccer Federation, celebrates his birthday today, (Tuesday), but very few know his real age.

But Peter does concede he knew who the Mills Brothers and Brenda Lee were.

Peter Gray: Had clashed with Charlie Perkins.

The former powerful Sutherland goalkeeper, is the only Soccer administrator to have played against the Late Charlie Perkins during the 60s.

"In one game against Bankstown in which Charlie played, I knocked him out during a hard collision between the two of us.

"Charlie was hard as nails and never would pull out of a challenge," Mr Gray reminisced.

"Having said that though, Charlie would knock you over, then be the first to pick you up and dust you down.

"He was a real Aussie, extremely honest and a very direct competitor," summed up Gray.

Many Happy Returns Of the Day, Mr President.

●●●●

SYDNEY OLYMPIC late last week signed up Liberian International striker, the 27-year-old Mass Sarr who 11 years ago kicked off his senior career in the French League at Monaco with ace international George Weah.

The powerful Sarr has also played with Hajduk Split and later Reading in England.

Mass Sarr: Olympic's newly signed Liberian International striker.

●●●●

ALL last week ABSW was bombarded by irate phone calls from readers about Channel 7s very late screening of its NSL highlight package last Tuesday, (more accurately, very early Wednesday morning).

One reader, from Newcastle, didn't even wait for Tuesday, (Wednesday morning actually), to roll around.

The reader, (named Roy), phoned us early Monday morning after he had just checked over his weekly t.v. programme.

Of course Channel 7s service of Soccer has been nothing short of poor. But who is to blame for this?

What are our Soccer hierarchy doing about it?

They knew full well, and prior to last Tuesday, (Wednesday morning that is), that the Seven Network had scheduled the their NSL package to go to air at that dreadful and disgusting timeslot.

Soccer Australia, under the David Hill regime, sold the exclusive t.v. rights to the Seven Network in a 10 year deal totalling $27 million.

It seemed that Soccer Australia was breaking its neck at the time to get Soccer onto a commercial network, no matter what the quality of service was going to be.

Once again, SBS-TV, the real pioneers of Soccer coverage in this nation, was 'elbowed' out.

As previously disclosed by 'Good Oil' in recent weeks, now we know that the Nine Network has secured the exclusive television rights to the next World Cup Finals in Japan/Korea and that the Network will only be screening the last 16 matches of that Cup.

The simple question beckons.

Why on Earth are we so desperately keen for the commercial networks to have Soccer?

To spread the gospel of Soccer to the kids?

Not really.

Fine if the kids, (adults included that is), are insomniacs.

Both commercial networks so far have shown a powerful passion of disdain and seem to be out to bury Soccer.

●●●●

TONY LABBOZZETTA, last Sunday was easily voted back as President of the giant Club Marconi, after having stood down from that position for the past 18 months.

Labbozzetta, also a Commissioner with Soccer Australia, had previously held the presidency for almost 15 consecutive years.

Club Marconi today boasts a register of 24,443 members.

As one of the biggest sporting-complex clubs in NSW, Club Marconi over the past decade has ballooned into a massive empire with assets valued at a conservative historical cost of a fraction under $46 million.

Last financial year Club Marconi incurred expenditure just for Soccer that totalled a colossal $3.1 million.

This heart-stopping figure included wages, salaries and contracts which swallowed up $1.8 million.

Such massive outgoings were off-set by income that grossed $2.24 million which streamed in from advertising, gate takings, sponsorships plus transfer fees.

Last Sunday at the Club's annual elections, Labbozzetta had somewhat surprisingly been challenged for the presidency by former Marconi winger, Rene Licata.

The 35-year-old Licata two years back had parted company with Club Marconi to become a foundation director with the then newly formed rival club, the Northern Spirit.

In the final result at Sunday's elections, Labbozzetta polled 983 votes, giving him a solid 365 winning margin over his younger opponent.

●●●●

A senior coach operating in Australian Soccer, not only doesn't get paid for his laborious services, but also produces an attractive and very informative Match Day Programme, all free of charge.

Sir Gallahad

As well, the 'Phantom Coach' serves as the Club's 'invisible sponsor' by organising, as well as paying for, all the Club's playing strips, track-suits plus sports bags.

A Soccer Samaritan, par excellence.

As a bonus, his lovely wife backs up on Match Day to serve chips drinks and coffees in the Club's small canteen to assist in raising urgently needed funds.

Sterling stuff.

Tony Labbozzetta: Back as president at Club Marconi.

The Good Oil ...

Dave Brown: Blacktown City's League champion winning coach.

THE NSW SOCCER FEDERATION tomorrow, (Wednesday), will stage its Season Launch of the new ten-team competition, the NSW Premier League.

The Launch will be held at The Visionarium Sega World, down at Sydney's picturesque Darling Harbour.

●●●●

BETTING AGENCY, SPORTODDS, has hoisted Perth Glory's marksman Damian Mori at a short $3:75 to finish the season as the League's leading goalscorer.

Souths' striker Andy Vlahos is second favourite and listed at $9 with the Glory's Bobby Despotovski and Wollongong's Stuart Young marked in at $10.

●●●●

CHARLIE PERKIN's family has expressed its wish that no flowers be sent to his Funeral tomorrow (Wednesday).

Instead, the Perkins Family is requesting that all of Charlie's friends send a donation to:

The 'Charlie Perkins Children's Trust'.
G.P.O.Box 4462.
SYDNEY. NSW.

By John Economos

ALISTAIR EDWARDS, the Perth Glory's international striker, needs just one more game to rack up his 50th NSL match for the Club.

Edwards returned to Australian Soccer last year after having played in the Malaysian National League with Alan Vest's Sarawak.

Charlie Perkins: No flowers please — but send a donation to the Charlie Perkins' Children's Fund.

Damian Mori: Listed favourite as leading goalscorer.

Alistair Edwards: One more game for his 50th at the Glory.

●●●●

THE MELBOURNE KNIGHTS racked up their 100th win at the Knights' Stadium when the defeated Parramatta Power 2-1 last Sunday night.

The Knights have also now scored 298 goals at the Stadium.

Vlado Vanis: The Knights' coach.

Fairfield Bulls Soccer Club

SUPER LEAGUE TRIALS

All trials will be held at Nineveh Soccer Field
673-683 Smithfield Road, Edensor Park

Under 18:

Monday 30th October, 6th and 13th November 2000
Wednesdays 1st, 8th and 15th November 2000

Under 21 and 1st Grade:

Tuesdays 31st October, 7th & 14th November 2000
Thursdays 2nd, 9th & 16 November 2000

TRIALS WILL COMMENCE AT 6.30PM

COME AND BE PART OF THIS PROGRESSIVE CLUB

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE TEAM MANAGER LENNY ISAAC ON 0410 491 511 OR THE HEAD COACH JOHN TURNER ON 0412 335 121 OR 9823 8222 A.H.

BANKSTOWN CITY SOCCER CLUB

Coaches Wanted

The above Club is now inviting applications for Coaches for their First Grade, Under 21s and Under 18s.

Level 111 Qualifications required. Applications close 12th November 2000.

All applications must be forwarded to:

The Secretary,
P.O.Box 656.
BANKSTOWN. NSW. 2200.

For further information, please contact:
Mile Smileski on 9786 6540

RYDE CITY SOCCER CLUB

SOCCER TRIALS

Venue:

Epping Boys High School

AGE GROUPS U11, U12
10.30AM TO 12.30PM
AGE GROUPS U13, U14
1PM TO 3PM
AGE GROUPS U15, U16
3PM TO 5PM
BE THERE HALF HOUR BEFORE

Trials for Cadet and Youth League

For further information contact Youth Director Warwick Andrews.
Phone: 9899 4004 (after hours).

FOREST KILLARNEY SOCCER CLUB

Is seeking expressions of interest for the role of
Senior Coach for our AL.1 Squad
in the 2001 season.

We are a small to average sized Club within the Manly Warringah Soccer Association with a strong, local community identification and would like to secure a Coach to guide our AL1 team with a view to future promotion into Premier League.

All applications will be treated on the basis of potential benefit to the team and Club, and not necessarily strictly on qualifications. Please reply by 1st December, 2000 to:

The Secretary
Forest Killarney Soccer Club
P.O. Box 57
Forestville. NSW. 2087.

MSC LIVERPOOL SOCCER CLUB SEASON 2001

FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

PLAYERS REQUIRED FOR U/18, U/21 AND FIRST GRADE

Trials commence Monday 16 October at 7.00pm for U/18 and U/21
Tuesday 17 October at 7.00pm for First Grade
Thursday 19 October at 7.00pm for all three grades

Further Information:
Head Coach: Brian Dene 9719 888 or
President: Arthur Sullivan 9648 5007

Also

Youth & Cadet League Trials

Commencing 5th November for all grades.
U/11 at 9.00am, U/12 at 10.30am, U/13 at 12noon
U/14 at 1.30pm, U/15 at 3.00pm, U/16 at 4.30pm

Further Information:
Youth League Co-Ordinator: Tony Stambouli 9290 1188
Secretary: Phil Sampson: 9805 4442

ALL TRIALS WILL BE HELD AT
HAMMONDVILLE PARK HEATHCOTE,
HAMMONDVILLE

OFF THE CROSSBAR

By Allan Crisp

TITANIC TRIANGULAR TUSSLE

The Battle lines have been drawn in the race to form a second South Australian National Soccer League team in time for the 2001-2002 season.

And a hot paced race it should be because the deadline for applications is December 31, 2000.

SA's only current NSL club Adelaide City Force, Adelaide Fire which failed to submit a late bid for this season and a new entrant, South Coast Eagles, are the contenders in what is looming as a titanic struggle.

Force made it to the starting line this season, despite not going the level of sponsorship it had fought to obtain.

The Fire was in a similar situation when it failed, despite months of intense negotiation, the gain the corporate support needed to convert its dream into reality.

Adelaide City Force, with three championships behind it, is no certainty to be a starter next season, unless it manages a remarkable financial recovery.

Hopes remain that City could yet lure a benefactor, but should that not eventuate, the club surely cannot continue to rely on president Bob D'Ottavi bailing it out of the bankruptcy courts.

Enter the third player in the emerging drama that is beginning to rival some of the world's greatest mystery triangles — Con Makris' South Coast Eagles.

Adelaide businessman, Makris is a former West Adelaide Soccer club team manager, who is best remembered as the person, who owned 51 per cent of the West Adelaide Sharks NSL team before it went belly-up, bust.

This time Makris has secured a controlling interest in the West Torrens Birkalla Soccer Club which last season was relegated from the Premier League to SA's State League.

The Makris plan is to use Birkalla's Camden Reserve complex as a base for the club before buying a NSL licence for the South Coast Eagles.

Makris has reportedly targeted six Socceroos for his yet to take wing, Eagles, including former Shark, Stan Lazaridis and ex-Adelaide City midfielder, Craig Foster.

Foster, linked with Northern Spirit after training with the Sydney outfit, told ABSW that he had been approached by a representative from the Eagles.

"I'm experiencing work permit problems at the moment and that's why I can't keep playing with Crystal Palace until the matter is settled," Foster said.

"I have been approached by someone from South Coast Eagles, and like all professional footballers, I said I would listen to them and keep my options open."

Makris also has identified former Melbourne Knights coach Ken Worden as the man to take charge of his proposed new team.

Worden should complete his stint with Malaysian national league club Selangor in April.

Meanwhile, the fire is set to continue negotiations with prospective investors, while a working party is about to resume identifying coaches and players for its second dig at forming a viable NSL club.

TANA TICKS TIERS

West Australian entrepreneur Nick Tana has given his seal of approval to Adelaide Fire and South Coast Eagles as they strive to gain national league entry.

The Perth Glory part owner is keeping a close watch on events in Adelaide and is likely to extend the arm of sponsorship to any successful bidder.

"My view always has been other clubs should follow what we (Glory) have achieved and what Northern Spirit achieved in their first year," Tana said.

"If nobody does it in Adelaide, the question is, should we do it?" he asked. "For the game to prosper, it needs to be a state-based entity with the broadest possible appeal and support from fans, the corporate sector and the media.

"Unfortunately, some clubs haven't yet come to grips with that concept."

PRIZE DOUBLED

In these days of corporate cut-backs, it is refreshing when a sporting prize is doubled in value.

That's what is happening this season with the Adelaide "Advertiser" increasing its Golden Boots award from the initial $1000 cheque, plus a gold medallion to $2000 and the medal.

The prize goes to the Adelaide player judged the best for season 2000-01. Votes are cast by journalists on a 3-2-1 basis throughout the national league home and away minor round.

Fort Knox Security has joined forces with the "Advertiser" to increase the prize pool, with the paper contributing its usual $1000, while the security company will present the winner with $1000 in gold bars.

The Golden Boots award is Australia's longest running individual soccer prize, being introduced in the NSL's inaugural season of 1977 when it was the Philips League.

Sergio Melta 1984 (Adelaide City), Milan Ivanovic 1991 (Adelaide City) and Graham Honeyman 1995 (West Adelaide), completed doubles by winning the "Advertiser" award and the NSL Player of the Year award in the same season.

NEW MAN READY

Adelaide Force attacking midfielder Anthony Magnacca stepped off a Melbourne flight last Tuesday and swung straight into his first training session two hours later.

Magnacca, 22, is trialling under Force coach Zoran Matic for six weeks after which the Force and Magnacca's club South Melbourne will discuss contract terms or a loan deal.

Allan Crisp can be hard on the 5RPH (1197AM) Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7.30am-9am, along with former Australian international John Perin, Channel 10 sports presenter Robbie Popplestone, "Advertiser" soccer writer Meno Toutsidis and Australian and British Soccer Weekly editor Vince Battiato.

WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

Substitutions — it was noticed that no replacements were made at the home game of the Wolves at WIN Stadium against Perth Glory, with only one substitution made by Perth coach Bernd Stange. It is rare in NSL soccer to go through 90 minutes without making replacements, either due to injuries or tactical moves.

Last season the Wolves coach made replacements at each game, usually all three replacements were sent on. This year an additional replacement is allowed with a stand-by goalkeeper, a very sensible regulation change. Wolves coach Ron Corry made no substitutions against Perth and seemed to be satisfied with the performance of his side on the day.

Perhaps it looks tough for the replacements sitting on the bench all game long without getting a minute's play.

■■■■

Promising Youngster — 15-year-old striker Jay Lucas is being courted by mighty UK Premier League football club Leeds United, being offered a contract when he turns 17 years of age. He has been visiting England trailing with Coventry City and Middlesbrough, and both were interested to secure the young talent.

However when Jay Lucas returned to Wollongong, a representative from Leeds United made contact with an offer too good to refuse. Meantime Jay continues his school education and is playing soccer with the Wolves.

Actually he was selected in the first game into the senior squad despite his tender age. The development of this young player will be followed by the fans with great interest, maybe a "Star-in-the-making" is emerging in due time.

■■■■

Old Boys — on the return to WIN Stadium after years of playing at Brandon Park, the Wolves invited the remaining original Wollongong City NSL players still living in Illawarra to attend the Perth game.

The first match in the early 80's was played at the then 'Showground' (now WIN Stadium) and following past stars were introduced to the crowd — Chris Dunleavy (former captain of the team), Jock Morlando, John Fleming, Natch Vardareff and Ray Vlietstra, each of them recalling their first outing in the National League with Wollongong City, memories to cherish.

■■■■

Match Day Sponsor — at the home game hosting Perth, the Illawarra Credit Union was the day's business sponsor which includes being mentioned in all pre-game advertisements in the media, radio and television, also in the colourful outstanding match day booklet, given VIP treatment at the stadium with complementary passes and prime seating, access to all players for promotional purposes, acknowledgment on match-day P.A. announcements.

Packages range from $2000 to $4500 — with local business firms invited to support the Wolves by contacting their marketing department Greg Burgess on phone 4226 3988, there are still a few match-day-sponsors available. For the home game against Marconi next Saturday the sponsor is "Stockland Group."

■■■■

New Players Signed — a question often asked by fans and the media since the Wolves seem to be quiet on the matter. Many are looking for replacements and additions to the Wolves squad for those players lost from last season.

Coach Ron Corry has a definite philosophy on that subject — namely not to sign just any player to make up the numbers but to look for top quality performers and more intensity put on youth development.

Several players having trailed with the Wolves recently have been released, not measuring up to the coach's expectations. Over the years Ron Corry has fostered young players who are now world class stars, look at Mark Viduka for example.

Once again Corry trusts his instincts and has added to his senior squad promising young players, ready to bleed for NSL soccer, hoping to unearth another classy first grader like Paul Reid or Scott Chipperfield or Matt Horsley. Two youngsters were on the bench against Perth Glory, namely Jay Lucas (just 15) and Beren Sullivan (18) plus keeper Grant Barlow (20).

This week the coach signed up another talented young star in George Nohra (19), a gifted midfielder who joined this year from Sydney Olympic and training with the senior team. Also on the books and already having a game in top grade is youngster Steve Dimitrievski (18).

The Wolves coach knows his youth policy will bring in benefits in the future for the survival of the club and test his credibility as head coach, being able to spot prospects.

■■■■

WIN Stadium — as soccer ground was tested in the first home game. Surely there were a few rumbles and complaints going by the furious comments in the local Illawarra Mercury and letters to the Editor.

While understandable, one hopes that the 'Trust' can rectify all shortcomings quickly. The fans pay good money and deserve to be treated well and must be made welcome, otherwise they will not accept the new 'soccer home'?

The past is gone with Brandon Park, no matter how hurtful politics can be, progress can not always be halted. Our 'football' code is growing despite all knock backs and the continuous incompetent bungling of Soccer Australia — in hindsight David Hill even though bombastic he got things done, was instrumental in lifting soccer's prestige.

It will survive despite all, even if one does not always agree with changes of competition make-up or venues. Business thinking and proper 'Mission statements' are essential for the Wolves to prosper.

■■■■

Soccer Illawarra — the association has received for next year 29 club nominations, one more than last season which is encouraging. The Board of Directors will peruse all applications and a decision has to be made at this week's board meeting which clubs are accepted in first division and which ones in Premier League.

One nomination comes from outside Illawarra or Highlands area, actually from Campbelltown area, an acknowledgment of the attraction of the local soccer competitions. As soon as the two leagues are finalised, the draw will be made and published. Preparations for the ISA Handbook with competition draws for both leagues are under way and should be available early next year.

Adverts in the handbook, 3000 copies are being printed and distributed, are still being accepted, a full page $300 — or half-page for $150.

Please contact the ISA office on phone 9227 2969 or yours truly on 4297 0570 for more details like your preferred graphic design.

Advertising covers the cost of the booklet which amounts to around $5000 at present.

Every member club receives 50 copies, each player is issued with it, coaching staff and managers will receive the handbook as well as affiliated organisations like the Junior Soccer Association, Wollongong Amateurs Association (36 teams), Women's Soccer Association and Business Houses Soccer competition plus Leisure Coast Soccer, Churches Soccer, Referees Association and the NSL Wolves. Maximum exposure is assured.

Two states split squad

By Graham Cooke

The 14-strong final Australian men's futsal squad for the FIFA World Cup in Guatemala, is split between the two major states for the sport, NSW and the ACT.

NSW has eight members, including captain Adam Confoy, and the ACT six.

The squad does not include goalkeeper Angelo Konstantinou, who is recovering from an injury and anyway had to choose between national selection at indoor level and trying to regain his place in the Canberra Cosmos NSL starting line-up.

Australia will have to show they are better than their current 15th world ranking to advance in the 16-strong competition. Their opening Group C matches are against Costa Rica (November 19), Croatia (21st) and Russia (23rd).

Brazil, in Group A with Guatemala, Kazakhstan and Portugal, are the dominant force in world futsal and will be overwhelming favourites to take the title.

The other competing countries are: Group B, Egypt, Uruguay, Thailand, Netherlands. Group D, Iran, Cuba, Spain, Argentina.

The Australian squad is: Adam Confoy, Andrew Nolan, Brett Hewitt, Jamie Amendolia, Jason Wells (NSW — Sydney Falcons), Danny Macor (ACT — Azzuri), David Palywoda, Matt Whyte (ACT — Supercats), Elia Salloum (ACT — CBF), Gavin O'Brien (NSW), Simon Aitchison (ACT — Skipsu), Simon Keith (NSW — Campbelltown City Quake), Elliott Zwangobani (ACT), Jorge Suarez (NSW).

Head of delegation, Steve Palywoda; coach, Jim Roberts; manager, Con Tskos; administrator, Jason Lancsar; doctor, Charles Howse; physiotherapist, Andrew Young.

The team was in a training camp at the Australian Institute of Sport over the weekend.

Steffanuto makes his mark

By Glenn Davis

After three years with the Brisbane Strikers, young defender Shane Steffanuto is making a name for himself off the field as well as on.

Steffanuto, who was one of the Strikers' most dangerous weapons despite their opening fixture loss to Melbourne Knights at Suncorp Stadium, has been appointed Youth Development Officer at the club.

The 20-year-old former Cairns junior has made the move from his Gold Coast home to Brisbane to live permanently to concentrate on his new football profession.

"Having to leave my home on the Gold Coast and move to Brisbane is a huge change for me," Steffanuto said.

"Although the cities are only 45 minutes apart, the lifestyles are very different."

Steffanuto is in his third year with the Brisbane Strikers and is now playing with a great deal of confidence despite his tender age.

Coming to terms with working fulltime also is a huge change for the gifted defender who started the season with 40 national league games behind him and just one goal.

Steffanuto, who spent three years with the Queensland Academy of Sport before he broke into the Strikers' squad, was identified early in his career by new Queensland director of coaching Andrew Bettell.

"He basically told me to come down to Brisbane to expose myself to better competition and give myself the best chance of making representative teams," Steffanuto said.

Steffanuto was not alone when he moved from Cairns as his family also decided to take the plunge to move to the Gold Coast.

"It was an amazing thing they did, and they did it basically for me," he said.

Whilst on the Gold Coast Steffanuto played with Southport in the local Gold Coast competition before he was invited in the QAS.

Shane Steffanuto: Maturity beyond his years.

It was at the QAS under the expert tuition from coach Gary Phillips, that Steffanuto began to blossom.

"Gary helped me a great deal. He has a good program there especially when you consider the number of QAS players to rise up to the Strikers ranks," he said.

Like most young players, Steffanuto has a dream of playing professionally for Australia.

With his deft left foot that goal may not be too far off if the continues his current progress.

Belconnen enter league without key defender

By Graham Cooke

Belconnen Blue Devils will go into the NSW Premier League without their vastly experienced central defender, Jason Dunn, coach Lino Fiorese says.

Speaking directly after his team had beaten Parramatta Eagles 3-1 in a pre-season friendly, Fiorese said Dunn, an accountant, had decided to take a job offer in the United States.

The former National League star had been a mainstay in Belconnen United's ACT Premiership-winning side, and in what now seems likely to have been his last game for the club, was named player of the 2000 grand final.

He has a habit of going out on a high note. In his last NSL game, recalled to the Canberra Cosmos line-up in the middle of the 1998-99 season, he scored before sustaining an injury that effectively ended his career at that level.

Fiorese said he would not be rushing out to replace Dunn, and the reshuffled defence, anchored by Lee Pietrukowski, with Matt Cachia coming in, handled Parramatta well enough without him.

The visitors were limited to a couple of half-chances before the interval, and it was only in the later stages that lack of match-fitness evened the gap between the teams.

The Devils took the lead after six minutes, Leo Langone crossing for George Cattanach to slide the ball home at the far post.

They were 2-0 up before half time. Steve Lazzari, five times a Golden Boot winner in the ACT competition, produced a fine individual goal in which he shook off challenges from Tom Bazdaric and Ben Delicata.

The third goal, putting the game beyond doubt, came five minutes after the interval, Scott Manson showing he had not lost his midfield scoring touch. Substitute Ballamodou Conde retrieved a little of the situation for the Eagles with a well-weighted dipping shot which deceived goalkeeper Anthony Giannasca after 70 minutes.

Fiorese said his squad, mostly drawn from clubs in the ACT competition, had demonstrated they are capable of moving to a higher level.

"The trick is maintaining it week in, week out," he said.

Belconnen won the youth game 4-3.

MT PRITCHARD & DISTRICT FEDERATION SOCCER CLUB

A Sub-Club of Mt Pritchard & District Community Club

Trials for 2001 Season

Cadet & Youth League Division 1

Under 11's **Monday 23rd October** 6pm
Under 12's **Monday 23rd October** 6pm
Under 13's **Tuesday 17th & 24th Oct.** 6pm
Sunday 22nd October 1pm
Under 14's **Wed. 18th & 25th Oct.** 6pm
Sunday 22nd October 11.30am
Under 15's **Thursday 12th October** 6pm
Under 16's **Friday 20th October** 6pm
Sunday 22nd October 10am

State League Division 1

Under 18's **Tuesday 31st October** 6pm
Sunday 5th November 9am
Under 21's **Wednesday 1st November** 6pm
Sunday 5th November 11am
1st Grade **Wednesday 1st November** 5pm
Sunday 5th November 11am

Venue for all Trials AMALFI PARK Weir Cres Lurnea

COACH REQUIRED FOR UNDER 13's
Must have necessary qualifications
PLEASE CONTACT Sue Hartas OR Dave Higson

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Sue Hartas 9673 4939 or 0414 701 489 Cadet, Youth & State Leagues
Greg Ryan 9628 5507 or 0417 656 658 Cadet, Youth & State Leagues
Dave Higson 4625 1576 or 0412 0433 282 Cadet & Youth League
Darryl Glover 0418 116 959 State League

Sunshine George Cross Soccer Club takes a new approach to the game of soccer and the development of junior players

Sunshine George Cross is preparing for a hectic season by announcing that all playing staff must be amateurs and the forming of an Academy for junior teams with great ability.

The Club understands the need for junior players to have somewhere, some club, to play for when they finish off their junior playing days, and by the CLUB going amateur, it has now paved a way for amateur players to participate at senior level with our first and reserve team in State League Division One.

This of course includes all those Junior players finishing from their Under 16's and perhaps also the Under 15's.

There is no limit as to what age a Junior player can be introduced to senior soccer, as long as he shows great ability to play the game.

Our Club has one of the finest records of 'Giving Youth A Go' and our aim is to improve on that.

Our aim also, is to enter a Youth Team in the National League, possibly in the year 2002. All this depends on how many good young players we'll have at the time before we apply.

The Coaching staff will of course be chosen as the best from all applications with possibly a high profile and popular name Coach to be appointed as Senior coach and as the coaching co-ordinator.

At present, we are also in the process of establishing a sister club overseas, so any player that wishes to trial there, can do so through our Club.

The Chaplin Reserve playing and training surfaces are presently undergoing major repair works so they can be ready when training starts. The dressing rooms will also be upgraded or rebuilt in the very near future.

The Club will also hold onto Dobson Reserve in Braybrook and the school grounds of the Baybrook Secondary College in Duke Street, Braybrook.

This gives the Club plenty of room to train and play for all Junior teams.

We also had some inquiries from girls interested in playing soccer. At this stage, we can only say, that if we had enough applicants for a team, we shall certainly do something about it.

As you can see, Sunshine George Cross is about to launch into a well organised season that will see Junior players come on stage.

We know that there's a lot of unhappy junior players and parents out there that are either dissatisfied with their present club, or they simply want to make a change of clubs.

All Junior players and their parents will have to sign a "Code of Ethnics' agreement that will emphasise on good sportsmanship and good parent behaviour.

Sunshine George Cross will welcome all applicants.

Sunshine George Cross Soccer Club Ltd

Chaplin Reserve, Anderson Rd, Sunshine. Victoria. 3020

Applications for a Senior Coach and Junior Coaches are now open.
Senior Coach must have great organisational skills and able to coordinate with other coaches.
All applicants must be suitably qualified and able to demonstrate experience in Soccer Development programs, skill clinics, experience in working with Clubs, Schools, excellent organisation, and communication skills.
All applications must reach our Secretary by no later than 5th November 2000.

The Club is also seeking players of all age groups to participate in the Junior Academy and Senior Leagues.
All senior team applicants must be amateurs.
The Club will be forming an Academy for the better junior teams formed over a trial period which will start on Wednesday 1st November 2000.
All applicants must send a short resumé (letter) to the secretary stating their name, address, age contact number and past playing experience.
Team Selection will be made when all coaches are appointed.

For any other inquiries call Ms Monica Mansilla on 0413 590 782
Or Alfred Zahra during the day on (03) 9311 7820
All Correspondence must be sent to
The Secretary, P/O Box 324, Sunshine. Vic. 3020.

HAJDUK WANDERERS SOCCER CLUB INC

HAJDUK WANDERERS SC

• TRIALS • TRIALS • TRIALS

COME & TRIAL WITH THE BEST CLUB IN THE WEST, YOUTH LEAGUE & CADETS

Trials at Harold Read Park Girraween Rd, Girraween 6.30pm Sharp

Tues 24th October U/13's
Wed 25th October U/14's
Thur 26th October U/15's
Fri 27th October U/16's

TRIALS AT HAJDUK STADIUM
130 EDENSOR ROAD, ST JOHNS PARK

Saturday 28th October
U/11's 9am — U/12's 11am — U/13's 1pm
Sundays 29th October
U/14's 9am — U/15's 11am — U/16's 1pm

For Further Information Contact the Club's President Charles Abdilla
0416 171 896 or 9757 2906

Young Sydney Olympic Star

Chris Seitis, Sydney Olympic's outstanding 19-year-old striker, continued his goal-scoring prowess of the past few years last weekend.

Last Sunday week at Belmore Oval, Chris scored just after halftime for Olympic's Youth team in its 1-1 tough tussle against the visiting A.I.S.

Scoring goals consistently has become Chris' trademark.

Over the past few years, this Olympic teenager has been a prolific goalscorer graduating through the ranks of the Sydney Olympic Juniors.

For the past two seasons he's been the leading goalscorer with the Olympic Colts and Youth squads.

Whilst attending Ashfield De La Salle school, Chris scored a massive 30 goals in the State School championships.

Chris Seitis: Goalscoring machine.

PLAYER PROFILE

John Karoubas

Right now Sydney Olympic is represented in the goalkeeping department by Clint Bolton.

But also waiting in the wings is John Karoubas, a player whose progress is being monitered closely.

Birthdate:	16/7/79
Birthplace:	Australia
Height/Weight:	185cm/84kg
Suburb Residence:	Carlton
Nickname:	'Caribbean'
Current Club:	"Sydney Olympic"
Occupation:	Full time soccer player
Favourite Overseas Club:	Manchester United
Favourite Overseas Player:	Peter Schmeichel
Favourite Club:	AEK
Favourite Ground:	Belmore Sports Ground
Most Memorable Games:	National Titles Grand Final (NSW vs Sth Aust 2-0)
Biggest Thrill:	Playing state U/16's Championships (Sydney 1996)
Biggest Disappointment:	Missing out on national selection
International Honours:	Nil
Favourite Position:	Goalkeeper
Favourite Other Sports:	Tennis, Cricket
Favourite Food:	Steak & Chips
Favourite Music:	Everything
Favourite TV Show:	Just Shoot Me
Best Friend:	Dan Egorov
Biggest Career Influence:	My dad
Ambition:	To establish myself at Olympic first and then go overseas.
What You Hate in Soccer:	Losing and being injured
Most Promising Player:	Paul Kohler
Person You'd Like to Meet:	Eric Cantona

A.C. United's Under 12's Cadets

AC United — Under 12s Cadet League — Coached by Jack Belardo and managed by Theo Skordilis

AC United Soccer Club located at Wetherill Park in Western Sydney just off the Horsley Drive near Fairfield is the official sister club of the Marconi Stallions.

Jack Belardo has had an extensive coaching career, in the Riverina and the Sydney metropolitan area — twenty years in fact. He has coached some 'classy' Marconi junior sides — with a string of successes to talk about.

However, for personal reasons Jack decided this year to move to the new and progressive AC United Soccer Club. It was always going to be a big challenge.

But, with a squad of 16 enthusiastic boys, who demonstrated varying degrees of fitness and abilities at the team trials, Jack was able to mould this side into a winning combination, achieving the minor premierships, at their first attempt, by a comfortable margin.

AC United played 22 competition games, winning 14; scoring a competition point on three occasions; and only losing five matches.

They won the Major semi-final in a dour affair but only after a penalty shoot-out to secure their spot in the Grand Final.

The team refused to get carried away with the victory because it is not a 'dream team.' They were just pleased to have achieved so much in just a short period of time.

The Grand Final was a tough no nonsense affair with some strong defensive tackles and sparkling attacking soccer, but in the end the boys lost the Grand Final 1-0 after dominating the majority of the game — that's football!

The boys formed a strong bond throughout the year that was the foundation of its success on and off the field. They are a credit to themselves, the Club and families.

Back Row (L to R): Coach — Jack Belardo, Robert Mufale, Rocky Larla, Lucas Senterleky, Paul Skordilis, Lorry Amorosi, Frankie Froio, Michael Argoropoulos, David Donatiello, Samuel Belardo. Manager — Theo Skordilis.
Front Row (L to R): Joseph Ripepi, Anthony Ladu, John Mazzo, Anthony Stratti, James Haisman, Jake Smith, Nathan Caprara.

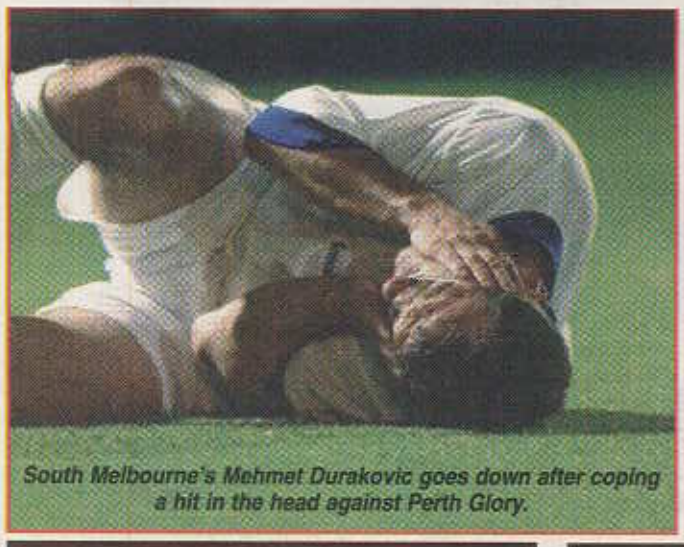
IMAGES FROM THE NSL

Rounds One & Two

Carlton's Craig Deans flies high over Wollongong's Paul Reid.

What a Save: Perth Glory custodian Jason Petkovic saves a penalty against South Melbourne at Perth Oval.

Sydney United striker Francis Awaritefe tackles Northern Spirit's Noel Spencer.



South Melbourne's Mehmet Durakovic goes down after coping a hit in the head against Perth Glory.

Melbourne Knights' Sasa Ognenovski holds up Alex Kiratzoglou after their win over Brisbane.

HAJDUK WANDERERS SOCCER CLUB INC

HAJDUK WANDERERS SC

• TRIALS • TRIALS • TRIALS

COME AND TRIAL WITH THE MOST CONSISTENT AND SUCCESSFUL CLUB OVER THE LAST THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS

1998 PREMIERS & CHAMPIONS 2ND DIVISION
1999 PREMIERSHIP RUNNERS UP & CHAMPIONS 2ND DIVISION
2000 PREMIERSHIP & CHAMPIONS RUNNERS UP 1ST DIVISION
2001 SUPER LEAGUE ?

• 1st Grade & U/21's Trials •

7PM SHARP
COMMENCING 31ST OCTOBER 2000
EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY UNTIL 23RD NOVEMBER 2000

U/18 Trials

7PM SHARP
COMMENCING 30TH OCTOBER 2000
EVERY MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY UNTIL 22ND NOVEMBER 2000

ALL TRIALS TO BE HELD AT HAROLD READ PARK
GIRRAWEEN ROAD, GIRRAWEEN
HEAD COACH
PHILLIP PAVELA (MOB) 0416 209 140 (AH) 9896 7096

For Further Details Contact:
Charles Abdilla (President) 0416 171 896 or 9757 2906

St George Soccer Association Inc.

Trials for Women's & Girls will be held at

Peakhurst Park, Trafalgar St.
PEAKHURST

On the following dates:
GIRLS Youth League — U/14 & U/16 years
Wednesday 1st & 8th November 2000
Time: 6.30pm
WOMEN'S State League — 1st Grade & U/19's
Wednesday 22nd & 29th November 2000
Time: 7.00pm
For further information please contact
Dot Buckley — Secretary — 0417-416-660
SEASON TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE
FOR the NSW PREMIER LEAGUE home games kicking off 3rd November at St George Stadium at 8pm 1st Grade & 6.00pm U/19s $45.00 per ticket

For further enquiries please contact
IAN BADDOCK 0412 298 737

HURSTVILLE CITY MINOTAURS

PLAYERS WANTED

Cadet (U11's and U12's) 1st Division
Youth (U13, U14, U15, U16) 2nd Division
Trials Commence Wednesday
25th October at Beverly Hills Park,
Vanessa St, Beverly Hills

Enquiries: Mr Peter Sarikakis
0412 407 830

DULI! DULI! DULI!
OI! OI! OI!
DULI! OI! DULI! OI!

Dulwich Hill Soccer Club requires players for the 2001 Super League Soccer Season.

DULWICH HILL SOCCER CLUB

Where: Tempe Reserve
When: Tuesdays & Thursdays at 6.30pm
From October 10th till November 16th
Who: U/21s, U/18s.
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★★★ SPECIAL FEATURE ★★★

The Man who got the ball rolling

CHARLIE PERKINS THE PIONEER

The death of Charles Perkins, who pioneered overseas trials in the late 1950s, has focused attention on the question why so few Aboriginal athletes have emerged as soccer players, while so many have excelled in other sports, writes Victorian editor Bert van Bedaf.

Back in the early seventies as a student at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (now a university of technology), staff members of the campus paper Catalyst were enjoying a long, post-interview lunch with Aboriginal activist Gary Foley.

At around 3pm Foley got up and said goodbye, announcing he had an appointment with "Charlie". And that was it. Gary was meeting Charles Perkins, which was like saying Moses was meeting the author of the tablets.

It was like a summons to God.

Throughout my student life, the heady Jim Cairns inspired protest days, the Gough Whitlam government years — brief but exciting — and onwards towards the pitiful Pauline Hanson days, Perkins has pricked the consciences of the "bigots and bastards", who have ignored Aboriginal rights.

Charles Perkins taught us 30 years ago that "Sorry" is not a dirty word, long before John Howard threw away the dictionary and castigated the so-called black armband brigade for embracing collective responsibility.

Now Dr Charles Nelson Perkins is dead at 64, leaving behind a wife (Eileen), two daughters (Hetti and Rachel) and a son (Adam). Through obituaries and retrospectives, I learned he also was a successful soccer player as an overlapping wingback. In fact, he was an Australian soccer pioneer, trialing for an overseas contract in England long before any other Aussie was donning a Premier League shirt.

In a sense, Perkins paved the way for such Aussie stars as John Aloisi, Mark Viduka or Danny Tiatto, currently playing in the English Premier League.

Perkins always led from the front - in medicine, academia, activism and sport. He became the first Australian kidney transplant recipient in 1972, the first Aboriginal to get a university degree in 1965 (and an honorary doctorate in 1993). He spearheaded Aussie soccer trialling in England and led the Aboriginal protest movement in the early 1960s.

Australia's only Aboriginal senator, Democrats Aden Ridgeway, decribed Perkins as the "champion of champions". "None of the present Aboriginal leaders would be where they are today without Perkins having paved the way for them to follow," Senator Ridgeway observed.

This may also be true in the world of soccer.

Charles "The Comet" Perkins trained as a fitter and turner in Adelaide, but ended up trialing with Liverpool club Everton and was close to signing

for Manchester United for a professional football contract.

Soccer "became an integral part of his life and remained a life-time love", according to reports. "Soccer to me is one way of breaking down the barriers between national, racial and language difficulty," Perkins once said.

When he studied at Oxford, he joined lower league club Bishop Auckland in 1957. He already had attracted the attention of scouts of Everton in Australia. He almost signed for Manchester United in 1959, aged 23, long before Mark Bosnich finally got his chance. But homesickness drove him back

to the red earth and to Adelaide Croatia to become captain-coach.

Soccer also gave Perkins his wife Eileen Munchenberg, whom he met a soccer dance in 1961 in South Australia.

"Perkins played for West Adelaide and Adelaide Croatia before moving to Sydney in the early 1960s, where he continued his career with Sydney Olympic (then Pan Hellenic). Although he retired (from playing) in the late 1960s, he maintained his interest through administration," Michael Cockerill (SMH) wrote.

Perkins represented South Australia as player and was regarded as one of the best players in Australia - "of the 20th century", according to enthusiastic SMH letter writer George Antonakos, of Byron Bay.

He was president of Canberra City when the club joined the NSL in 1978.

He once sat on the board of Soccer Australia and headed the Australian Indoor (Futsal) Federation until his death. In 1995, he became a consultant to the Australian Sports Commission, mentoring Aboriginal athletes. Perkins was awarded the Order of Australia in 1987.

Socceroos 1974 captain Johnnie Warren paid tribute to Perkins. "He had so many good ideas. He was a true believer," Warren said.

This year Charles Perkins was inducted in the Soccer Hall of Fame and presented with an "Award in the Roll of Honour for his meritorious contribution to the sport".

Soccer Australia listed his record. "Charles Perkins grew up in Alice Springs and began his senior playing career as a defender with Adelaide Juventus. From Adelaide he moved to the NSW first division, and with his cousin John Moriarty, is thought to have been one of the first Aboriginal players to have played in that competition.

"During his time in NSW, he played with Pan Hellenic (now Sydney Olympic), from 1960-61, captaining the team in 1961, before moving to Bankstown for two seasons, 1962-63. He then moved to England, for academic reasons, and played with Bishop Auckland, also trialling with Everton, while studying at Oxford."

With such a tremendous track record in the sport and Perkins being such an iconic role model, it is puzzling why there are so few Aboriginal soccer players around.

There is no Aboriginal player among the Socceroos. None is playing overseas. Are there any in the NSL? How many black players are there in the NSL? Francis Awaritefe (Sydney United) and Ransford Banini (Melbourne Knights) spring to mind.

Charlie Perkins: Pioneer both on and off the field.

Is Australian soccer falling behind other sports? The Olympic Games in Sydney were a triumph for Cathy Freeman and reconciliation. Australian Rules Football has been a platform for Aboriginal prominence for many years, from Doug Nicholls (1920s), Polly Farmer and Syd Jackson to the Cracker brothers (Jimmy and Phil), Maurice Rioli, Nicky Winmar, Michael Long and Che Cockatoo Collins.

Trawling the internet, I hit on a "fact sheet", recalling "Aborigines

and Sport". It adds Moriarty (Port Adelaide) to the pioneering Aboriginal soccer players.

"Moriarty was the first Aborigine to be selected to represent Australia in the sport (in 1961). But the tour was cancelled and he did not get to wear the green and gold."

Rugby league has had its fair share of Aboriginal stars, such as Bruce Stewart and Harry Penrith (1960s). John and George Ambrum represented Australia against New Zealand in 1972. World cup players were Eric Simms and Lionel Williamson. Other big Aboriginal rugby names are Cliff Lyons, John Ferguson, Steve Ella and Mal Meninga.

The sheet also records an Aboriginal athlete, called "Manuello", who was a professional runner in the 1850s. Another, Bobbie Kinnear became the first Aboriginal runner to win Victoria's professional footrace, the Stawell Gift, in 1993.

Cricket made a name for itself in 1866 when an Aboriginal team from Western Australia played the Melbourne Cricket Club. Two Aboriginals represented Victoria in 1967. A Victorian Aboriginal cricket team toured England in 1868 and again in 1988 to commemorate the original tour.

And, who could forget double Wimbledon champion Yvonne Goolagong-Cawley, who still is the greatest Aboriginal tennis player ever successfully to have swung a racket.

Against this impressive background of sporting prowess, soccer appears well back in the field. But Soccer Australia is about to embark on a major tour promoting the code in Australia's outback.

Called "Soccer in the Outback", the tour will take off on October 20. It will be travelling "to more than 13 destinations, covering about 5,500km to provide coaching expertise to more than 1,000 children living in remote and isolated areas of northern Australia", according to a Soccer Australia release.

It is a project of the Barkly Regional Soccer Development Joint Venture, which was established last year by the Northern Territory Soccer Federation and the Northwest Queensland Junior Soccer Association.

Soccer Australia coaching and development manager Jim Selby and Northern Territory Soccer Federation coach and development manager Milan Jankovic will be participating in the tour, which will provide "coaching clinics in 13 towns and 20 outlying communities".

"The clinics provide great opportunities to all young Australians, both indigenous and non-indigenous peoples, in remote and isolated regions," Soccer Australia publicity manager Rozanna Bozabalian said.

"Charles Perkins's memory and his tireless dedication to the sport wilL live on as thousands of children living in the more remote regions of Australia have the world game brought to their own back yards, via the 'Soccer in the Outback' tour," she said.

Another intrepid internet writer, Chriz Kunz, also wrote of "Comet" Charles and how he met him. "Charlie never lost his love for the game. I spoke to him last February and asked him how many young Aboriginal stars there were on the horizon," Kunz wrote. "Oh, sixty," Charles replied. I (Kunz) turned away with a smile, both at the thought of that number and its likelihood."

Tomorrow, Charles Perkins will be honored with a state funeral at Sydney's Town Hall. Aboriginal elders, business and political leaders are expected to attend the funeral and pay their respect. Let there be a firm presence of soccer fans, identities and dignitaries to honor one of the game's heroes and a great pioneer of the sport in Australia and overseas.

Information from: The West Australian, article "Perkins inspired indigenous voice", October 19, 2000. The Canberra Times, article "Tireless worker for Aboriginal advancement", October 19, 2000. The Hobart Mercury, article "Charles Perkins, pioneer activist", October 19, 2000. The Sydney Morning Herald, column In of the Post, "Farewell to Charlier Perkins, a man of good ideas", October 19, 2000. Internet, "Aborigines and Sport", Geoff Moore.

Internet, "Black and right", Chriz Kunz.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

AUCKLAND KINGZ 2
EASTERN PRIDE 1

Conditions were fine and mild before the start of this all important clash for both teams keen to gain a much needed victory.

The Kingz were quick to gain ascendancy for the first 10 minutes, with Vicelich and Lines providing solid play in midfield.

But after Pride gained a corner, taken by Puca, the ball was cleared, Hutchinson struck a hard shot, which caught a deflection and Juan Nilo scored the game's opening goal.

A number of fouls committed by the Pride saw some well taken free kicks by the Kingz Perry, which threatened, but it wasn't until the 22 minute mark that Tim Stevens equalised with a delicate header that beat Jevjedvic.

The Kingz were creating problems in the Pride midfield with their height and provided dangerous balls to Jackson and Perry of the Kingz. Pride's Neville Roach who was being held, almost scored after a Nilo cross, but was unable to capitalise at the 42 minute mark. The half closed at 1-1.

The Kingz began attacking and with eight minutes into the half Tim Stevens scored his second goal of the match after some enterprising play which saw him steal the ball off defender Dean Fak and slam it into the net and the Kingz gained the lead.

For much time after that, Pride continued to push forward Roach unable to dent the defence, whilst the Kingz seemed happy to defend their lead.

Naum Sekulovski made a fine run down the middle at the 88th minute, but was unable to beat the Kingz defence, it was to no avail and the Kingz ran out winners 2-1.

Juan Nilo who scored Pride's goal, thought the Kingz were quite tall "Their height certainly helped, but that doesn't excuse our performance tonight, which was very disappointing, we didn't really play all that well, the only positive I can take is I've scored a goal early in the season, and build on that."

Kingz coach Shane Rufer, after the match said "I'm pleased with the result, but apart from that it was a poor performance really, we need to improve in a lot of areas, the only good thing is the three points."

Ivan Vicelich: Great game in midfield.

NEWCASTLE UNITED 0
BRISBANE STRIKERS 2

By Greg Danvers

Newcastle United were denied the ultimate party climax when beaten by 2-0 Brisbane Strikers at Marathon Stadium, formerly the ISC, on Friday night in front of 15,123 Novocastrians.

Yes 15,123 turned up to witness the first NSL soccer match at ISC since 1984. The crowd of 15,123 eclipsed the KB United debut NSL match in 1978 by 56. Ironically KB United were also beaten in the first home match, 4-1 by Sydney United. The Breakers also suffered defeat in the first home match, 2-0 by Sydney United.

"Fifteen odd thousand thatís just fantastic," Newcastle coach Lee Sterrey said of the crowd.

"I've always believed Newcastle is a sleeping giant and itís great to see the people come out and support the team."

The match was delayed by almost 15 minutes to get the spectators into the ground and the crowd stood as one as Newcastle United were presented to their fans.

Newcastle started well but Brisbane looked strong and tough, ingredients one would expect from a John Kosmina coached side. Even the sprinklers that came on, behind the Brisbane goal, 16 minutes into the match was not going to dampen the resolve of the visitors.

Two goals before the break and the points were all but on the plane and headed for Brisbane.

Nick Meredith calmly piloted a 42nd minute corner home, which came from Newcastle 'keeper Brad Swancott mistake.

Two minutes later Peter Grierson headed home from a corner to seal the game and deny a Newcastle win.

Newcastle had their chances, 11 to two during the match, but didn't convert. Their defence of set pieces the most worrying for the Newcastle coach.

Lee Sterrey and John Kosmina at the after match press conference.

"That wasn't the start we wanted at home," Sterrey said.

"Up and till the first goal we were in the battle.

"It was an arm wrestle, but defensively on set pieces we were just not ordinary we were worse than ordinary.

"And if that's the best we can defend at set pieces then Brisbane could have scored five or six.

"There's plenty of improvement in the side," Sterrey added.

"We haven't had the ideal preparation and we know we were underdone.

"In general play I didn't think there was too much between the two sides but at the end of the day we got punished by five minutes of stupidity in the first half."

Brisbane came to Newcastle on the back of a 2-1 home loss to Melbourne Knights.

"This win probably makes last week fell even worse," Brisbane coach John Kosmina said in his first Press Conference in Newcastle since leaving as the Breakers coach.

"We shouldnít have lost last week, but they have learnt from that and came here a little bit more resolute.

"I was happy with the way they went and I think we were a bit better in the second half, we were solid and kept our shape and didn't lose our cool.

"A win is a win no matter where you play," was Kosmina's reply to winning in Newcastle over a side he once coached.

The pitch, with only three weeks work on it, came in for limited criticism.

"My guys whinged about it and it did look a bit sandy," Kosmina said.

"In terms of surface value it is no where as good as Breakers Stadium but in terms of the venue its far better off and I think the crowd proved tonight that people have been looking for it (Soccer) to come back here for a long long time."

Financially Newcastle Unitedís future looks secure with the announcement of a three-year deal with Newcastle owned printing and graphic design company Lloyd Scott Enterprises on the eve of their first home game.

The deal is believed to be worth a six-figure sum and with such a healthy crowd at Marathon Stadium for the first home game, including many of the 'Rowdies', the night had plenty of atmosphere — only the win was missing.

ADELAIDE CITY 0
SYDNEY UNITED 2

By Allan Crisp

Sydney United striker Francis Awaritefe emerged as the bravest of the Bravehearts striking two goals in a 12-minute first half burst to drive his new club to a 2-0 victory over winless Adelaide City Force.

Awaritefe's brace served as justification to United coach Alan Hunter's faith in the veteran forward, who now has netted 119 goals in 303 NSL games. The tall, lithe former Sutton United striker broke through in the 17th minute when slack marking allowed him one of the easiest goals of his outstanding career.

Moments before the defining goal, Zlatko Arambasic exposed leaks in the Force defence when left with just goalkeeper Adrian Cagalj to pass, but hesitancy spoilt the chance.

Then Arambasic loomed up on the right side in a clearly offside position, but the unattended Awaritife snatched the opportunity to score his first goal for the Sydney team.

With Goran Talevski creating havoc as United's third forward, City had more problems to solve as teenager Lucas Pantelis expertly cleared a header from Danny Burt off the home goalline.

Two quick Braveheart corners piled the pressure on the Force defence that cracked again when the second flag-kick was nodded home by Awaritefe.

Rewinding to the seventh minute of the contest, a Tom Pondeljak pass left Arambasic with a simple put-away, but the former Socceroo shoved his shot wide.

Two minutes later, City had its chance to atone when the exciting young Pantelis released stand-in captain Carl Veart, whose cross to Nathan Day produced a header which United goalkeeper Brett Hughes gloved to safety.

Francis Awaritefe: Two-goal hero.

When Perth referee Angelo Nardi blew the final whistle to signal the end of his first NSL game, the paltry 3,467 crowd heaved a collective sigh of relief.

Nardi left the fans in a state of bewilderment over many of his decisions in a contest that ended with both teams a player short.

Force midfielder Nick Sabljak was first to be ejected in the 56th minute for an alleged kicking incident, while United midfielder Terry Palapanis was red carded in the 76th minute, having previously been yellow-carded in the 14th minute.

City coach Zoran Matic had a pre-match set-back when Italian import Claudio Pelosi failed a fitness test on his injured groin and joined injured skipper Aurelio Vidmar on the touchlines.

Matic introduced another rookie defender, Kristian Rees to fill the vacancy and attempted to plug his defensive holes at half time by replacing Gianluca Lagati with Scott Tunbridge.

Despite having 17 shots on goal, compared to nine by United, it was a decided lack of communication in the backlines that cost City dearly — a fact not lost on Matic.

Asked during the post-game conference if he could correct the problems before Sunday's away clash with Sydney Olympic, Matic said, "I hope I can, because if it takes longer than seven days, we will be in deep trouble."

Matic believes it will take "a fair few games for the youngsters to adjust to the pace of NSL soccer.

"Some will make it and some may not, but there is no doubt that the quality is there."

Quality oozed from Pantelis and Louis Brain, who also proved their ability in the hard work department as they scurried from end to end to join in the dirty defending, while not neglecting their attacking duties.

The Force penetrated the United penalty area 36 times, with the Bravehearts only making those trips 22 times.

Hughes was more often in action that his counterpart Cagalj and Veart belted the best boomer of the match to force Hughes into a magnificent tip over the crossbar.

Shoving those home-town positives aside, when the bottom line is read, Awaritefe scored the only goals of the contest and Sydney United housed the safest defenders in Burt, Richard Plesa and Damien Foxe.

And — Alan Hunter joined fellow rookie NSL coach of the previous week, Mickey Petersen in going home with both points from Hindmarsh Stadium.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

PERTH GLORY 1
SOUTH MELBOURNE 0

By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory's remarkable five year unbeaten home record against powerhouse team South Melbourne was again successfully preserved last Saturday by way of a tenacious 1-0 result under the new lights of Perth Oval.

Socceroo coach Frank Farina, who himself played on the ground with Brisbane Strikers during their championship winning season of 1996/97, was a special guest of the WA club and would have once more been impressed with what he saw and in particular at both ends of the pitch where Petkovic brothers, Jason and Michael turned on a stunning display of goalkeeping.

And it is extremely likely they created their own little piece of National Soccer League history by each saving a penalty.

"If we got a 1-1 draw out of the game I would have been much happier with my performance," said Michael Petkovic.

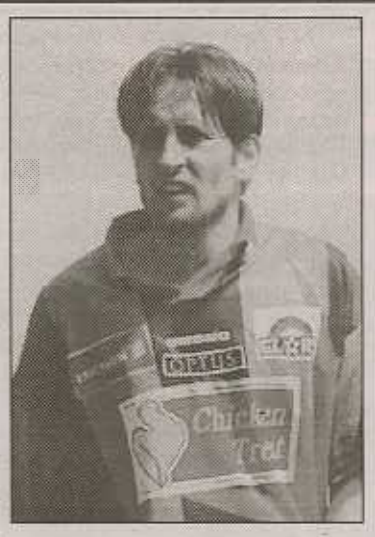
"We are a bit disappointed with the result obviously, but we have never had any joy here," said South's rookie coach Mike Petersen. The long-awaited switch from the uncomfortable hot afternoon matches to being played under lights appears to been a success although referee Matthew Breeze believes there is still room for improvement for the players and officials. "They are good but I found the edges of the pitch to be a little dark," he said.

The only stain on what was a gripping end-to-end tussle, was the second-half red cards to Glory wing-back Robbie Trajkovski for allegedly spitting at Steve Panopoulos, who himself received his marching orders moments later for diving.

"I believe our results have been good so far, a draw away against the current champions of Australia and now a comfortable win at home against the former champions," said Glory coach Bernd Stange.

"It was important to show the morale and character of the side to the fans when we were down to 10 men. The class of the game was not that high, but don't forget we have only started what is a long season after such a long break," said Stange, who also voiced his intentions of looking closely at the spitting episode before Soccer Australia pass judgement. "The incident was too far away from the bench so I will ask the referee," said Stange.

"He (Trajkovski) said he spat forward and not at the person, but since I don't trust nobody in soccer, I will wait before I make my decision. If the video replay shows differently then he will have a problem," ended Stange.



Bobby Despotovski: Winner.

In the face of an intimidating and partisan 14,081 crowd, former Glory boys Vas Kalogeracos and Con Boutsianis were expected to, but incapable of, producing the form Perth Oval had come to appreciate from past seasons.

Boutsianis did however, have two golden opportunities to salvage a point in the dying moments of the game, the first was a 90th minute goal bound strike that was cleared away by the alert Glory skipper Gareth Naven and an accurate trademark free-kick from the edge of the box seconds later that was breathtakingly tipped over the top by the Perth 'keeper.

The Melbourne visitors received a penalty decision after just six minutes play when Naven failed to prevent the ball from striking his arm. But the Perth custodian, diving full length and low to his right, managed to turn Panopoulos' spot-kick around the post.

What proved to be the winning goal came three minutes later from a Trajkovski corner that initially found Glory new boy Shane Pryce who miss-directed a volleyed attempt into the ground. Bobby Despotovski was the first to the ball that stood up perfectly for him to stab into the back of the net.

The home side could have increased their lead after half-an-hours play when NSL newcomer Patrick Kisnorbo tripped up Despotovski just inside the area but amazingly, Michael Petkovic duplicated the feat of his older brother by saving Trajkovskiís normally reliable spot-kick — again to the 'keeper's right.

Five minutes further on, Despotovski glanced a Trajkovski free kick centimetres wide, then at the other end, Southís danger man John Anastasiadis was preparing to line up a shot from the front of the box before Perth midfielder Edgar Junior nipped in to make a timely interception.

Damian Mori, who has settled in well in the west, was presented with a hatful of scoring chances throughout the match but it was only desperate defending and minor misdirection that stopped the Socceroo striker from netting a history making 150th NSL goal.

South Melbourneís seasoned stopper Mehmet Durakovic had a game he would prefer to forget after being on the receiving end of a number of nasty knocks, including one to the nose, which continually forced the plucky ex-Socceroo off the pitch for treatment.

"He's a tough character, the kind of character that makes South Melbourne the club it is," said Petersen.

Meanwhile, at the post-match press conference, the South's coach let his feelings be known about card-wielding referees, above all to exuberant goal scorers. His key forward Andy Vlahos was absent from the weekends clash after receiving two yellow cards for celebrating the sccring of two goals the previous week. "There's no doubt that the entertainment is affected when players get punished for celebrating a goal they had just scored," said Petersen.

"People have come to watch the game so a little bit of interaction with the supporters by the players, I think is a good thing. I said the same in the Melbourne press last week; the game is becoming a little sterile with all these rules and regulations. Within reason of course, I believe showing that raw emotion after scoring a goal doesn't do anyone any harm. It's a tough one but there again, it is also tough being a referee," he ended.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 2
PARRAMATTA POWER 1

By Bert van Bedaf

Firebrand Melbourne Knights celebrated their 100th victory at Knights Stadium with its second win in a row, beating Parramatta Power 2-1 much to the delight of the 6000 crowd, whose season's expectations are driving them to Sunshine in growing numbers.

No wonder that Knights coach Vlado Vanis smiled from ear to ear barely believing his team of inexperienced players are storming to a top three position on the ladder.

Vanis praised his young charges, whose average age is between 21 and 22, for holding on in the final hectic stages. Because Parramatta turned on the power in the last 15 minutes and the Knights were under siege, keeping their Jerusalem from falling with desperate defending.

The Knights coach acknowledged Parramatta was unlucky to lose, having had the better chances, especially in the first half.

"I feel sorry for David (Mitchell). They lost last week in a game (against Marconi), they didn't deserve to lose and now against us. But when Parramatta will start winning, they will hit the opposition teams very hard," Vanis said. Parramatta coach David Mitchell admitted missed chances had cost his team the match.

"We knew this would be a difficult game, but we could have been a goal or two up at half time. But the Knights scored instead and that made it difficult for us," Mitchell said.

"Then they scored for a second time and it was always difficult for us to come back from two goals down," he said.

Vlado Vanis: Big Smile.

Parramatta should have gone into the break in the lead, but it squandered several chances and allowed the Knights to sneak ahead against the run of play.

While the hardworking Knights built on their lead, Parramatta combined well but proved powerless in front of goal, missing clear-cut chances. It needed a penalty to get back into the match, but the Knights defended stoutly and clung to their slender advantage to take full points. Andrew Clark got in the first header for Parramatta from an Ahmad Elrich cross, but the Canberra player headed over the bar. It should have been an early goal.

Joe Miller missed a sitter in the 13th minute. Joel Griffiths won the ball from Knights captain Jason Vukadin and set up Elrich at the goal line.

The right wingback cut the ball back to an unmarked Miller. But the former Celtic player side-footed the ball high and wide while an exposed net was at his mercy. It wasn't going to be Parramatta's day.

The Knights also created a couple a chances, one from a free-kick just on the edge of the half circle, but Andy Vargas aimed inches over the bar, while Parramatta 'keeper Les Pogliacomi saved a shot by Alex Kiratzoglou from inside the box after 26 minutes.

Parramatta surged again on 30 minutes and Miller launched a powerful header that was well saved by Knight's keeper Lou Acevski, under the bar in place of Martin John, who suffered a shoulder injury at training last week.

Acevski saved again in the 31st minute, when the outstanding Elrich crossed inside the area. But Steve Berry only managed a tame side-foot into Acevski.

Miller produced a close-range header that also stranded on Acevski, before the Knights took a one-goal lead with a minute left to half time.

Busy forward Joel Porter put in a long cross and Andy Vargas pushed it on before Kiratzoglou ran the ball through the stunned Parramatta defence and into goal off the far post.

Steve Berry continued Parramatta's faltering attack, heading a Miller cross over the bar from inside the area minutes after the break, while the Knights extended their lead with a clever one-two combination in the 56th minute.

Xhezair Sulemani flicked the ball into the path of Porter, who hit the net with a low shot that sped underneath an outstretched Pogliacomi.

The Knights kept up their attacking style, putting the Power under more pressure. Substitute Anthony Pelikan fired a long-range shot that Pogliacomi tipped over bar for a corner and Porter also tested Pogliacomi with a close-range shot.

A defensive mistake allowed Parramatta to peg a goal back with a penalty. A poor backpass was left hanging just inside the box. Griffiths pounced and an advancing Acevski brought him down. The Parramatta forward took the spot kick, sending Acevski the wrong way.

Lifted by the goal, Parramatta mounted on a mass-attack and put the Knights under severe pressure for the remaining 15 minutes. But the nervous Knights defence held firm, kicking the ball clear at every opportunity, leaving Power as yet without a win.

CARLTON SC 2
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 2

By Alan Clark

Champions Wollongong Wolves conceded a heart-breaking injury-time equaliser to share the points with ten-man Carlton in the stifling heat at Bob Jane Stadium last Sunday.

The heartbreak was intensified as Wolves had come from behind to take the lead just eight minutes from time from a Robbie Stanton right-foot drive, only for substitute Ange Motsiopoulos to cleverly lay-off inside the box to David Terminello whose slide-rule shot went in off Wolves' keeper Daniel Beltrame's far post, sending the small but vocal home support away happy.

Carlton had netted first from a corner just after the half-hour. Lupo Lapsansky swung it in to the head of the giant Dave McPherson, who regularly makes the trek from his normal defensive position to take advantage of these situations. McPherson dropped the ball at the lightning-quick feet of Olyroo Archie Thompson, who turned in a flash, belting the ball past the hapless Beltrame from inside the six-yard box.

Carlton's Andrew Packer had an excellent chance to double the lead just four minutes later following a David Cervinski error. Playing against one of his old clubs, Cervinski found himself in possession at the edge of his own penalty-area preparing to clear the ball.

Packer saw an opportunity and quickly closed him down, blocking Cervinski's attempt at the clearance, and running onto the rebound at the bye-line.

With no-one in support, Packer brought the ball back inside to a more favourable shooting position, wrong-footing two defenders as he did so.

His right-foot shot went only narrowly past the far post when a goal would have been a more suitable reward for his awareness and endeavour.

It took until the 58th minute for Wolves to level from a thunderbolt free-kick taken by Scott Chipperfield just outside the penalty-area, after he had been brought down by Packer ending a dangerous and mazy run from mid-pitch. Paul Reid had made a dummy run at the ball, but Chipperfield's shot hit the back of the net before the wall or Anastasiadis had a chance to react.

Just five minutes earlier, Reid brought out a spectacular high save from Carlton keeper Dean Anastasiadis after a 30-metre effort.

And the pressure had continued with a Cervinski pass to Saso Petrovski, requiring another fine save, this time low. With scarcely time to draw breath, the ball was worked to the tireless Matthew Horsely following a series of one-touch passes. Horsely's swerving shot, hit with the outside of his right boot, gave Anastasiadis yet more work.

Andrew Marth: Sent off.

That it took so long for Wolves to score was indicative of the hard-working Carlton formation, depleted by the red-carding of captain Andrew Marth with just 12 minutes gone. Marth will now miss at least next week's derby game against South Melbourne, as well as incur the wrath of coach Stuart Munro.

Speaking after the game, Munro said, "The matter (of the appropriate disciplinary action the club will take against Marth) will be dealt with this week."

Marth's sending off, even although it arose before the quarter-hour had elapsed, was scarcely a surprise. An early edge to the game was apparent, and Marth himself had been involved in an angry exchange with Mennillo on the near-side touchline, and another with Beltrame in his short but eventful time on the pitch.

It appeared that Marth had head-butted David Huxley mid-pitch during a tangle where both were challenging for the ball. The ball came loose, but the tangle continued. Although the action was behind the ball, it wasn't outside Lennie's observation.

"The disappointing thing is that it's something I go on about every single game, and even more so at the beginning of the season. Discipline is paramount…we need to finish the game with eleven players," said Munro.

"Andrew let himself down."

Oddly, the game seemed to flow more smoothly for both teams following Marth's dismissal, and Carlton players reached within themselves to make good the resource deficiency.

Wolves' coach Ron Corry saw the balance shift away from his side, "We were outplayed when they had 10 men. We played poorly and we paid the penalty for it. Everything that's good about our game, we didn't do today."

But with the constant Wolves pressure either side of Chipperfield's leveller, it seemed that the Carlton resistance would crumble.

Wolves seemed to have the points in the bag when substitute Robbie Stanton found himself on the end of a sparkling Wolves' move, but - as in last week's game against Glory - you know you have to keep alert when Wolves play, right to the final whistle.

"Last week we played Perth off the park and should have won the game. This week we could have won the three points when realistically we wouldn't have deserved them," said Corry.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

NORTHERN SPIRIT 0
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0

By Vince Battiato

A great crowd of over 10 000 surged back to North Sydney Oval last Friday night to watch Spirit's first home match under the new Rangers regime.

Remarkably there were still quite a number of fans trying to get into the ground 15 minutes after kick-off but unfortunately for them the match could not be delayed since it was being telecast live on pay tv.

Fortunately for them they didn't miss too much as the game was a non-event for a good portion of the first half, the home side taking 11 minutes to mount its first attack.

Sydney Olympic's Nick Carle was the livliest player on the pitch in the first half and went close to scoring in the 14th minute when after good work he blasted into the side netting.

Olympic could have gone ahead on the 35 minute mark after a goalmouth scramble and a mistake by Paul Henderson in the Spirit goal ended with Kresimir Marusic blasting over the bar.

Spirit's 18-year-old import Ben Burgess was outstanding all night.

Graham Arnold: Happy with the team.

He held the ball up well and didn't stop trying for 90 minutes, the lack of support from behind frustrating the youngster on a number of occasions.

Olympic should have gone ahead two minutes after the break but for a spectacular save by Henderson.

Lindsay Wilson broke down the right and passed to Carle outside the box, whose neat flick released Wilson with a clean shot on goal and a great chance. But Henderson was equal to the task.

The match seemed to lack the real spark that was required by the Spirit, who would have wanted to impress new owner David Murray who was present at the match.

Both defences were sharp and cancelled out each others raids on goal with both coaches optimistic about the season ahead.

"I was happy with the way the boys stuck to their jobs this week," said Spirit coach Graham Arnold, "I'm pleased we kept our shape, but we basically cancelled each other out."

"We were the better team out there tonight," said Olympic coach Branko Culina," but we just didn't capitalise on our chances.

"I didn't think we were ever in any real danger of losing.

"Credit to the players, they worked hard and we got something out of the game," he ended.

MARCONI STALLIONS 1
CANBERRA COSMOS 0

By John Economos

Despite missing a penalty in stoppage time, Marconi was still able to scrape past a very defiant and man short Canberra Cosmos by 1-0 last Saturday night at the Marconi Stadium.

In fact it took a super goal by form sweeper Angelo Costanzo five minutes after the break that ultimately proved sufficient for Marconi to secure all three League points.

An extremely well organised Canberra proved more than a tough opponent for Marconi but five minutes before the break the team from the national capital lost centre-back and last defender David Milin for fouling Marconi's striker John Maisano a metre outside the box.

Playing a man short for the last 50 minutes, took some of the sharpness out of Canberra who still gallantly battled on.

Canberra's midfield of Marcus Phillips, Andrew Ravanello and Alex Castro were most industrious hungrily closing down Marconi which frustrated the home team.

The Canberra back-five of Nick Purdue, Toplica Popovich, Robbie Hooker, David Milin (until sent off), plus David Arranz, starved Marconi of freedom as well as time in the last third to finish shots at target.

Seeing his team being choked of space right across the pitch, Marconi' lateral defender Costanzo took it upon himself to set sail on a 75 metre gallop up field with the ball.

Twenty five metres out he sprayed the ball wide to the right to his supporting wingback Chad Gibson who promptly whipped it back into Canberra's box for Costanzo to volley-tap with a bent knee into the corner of the target.

This was Costanzo's first-ever goal after having played 135 games in the NSL, of which 133 had been with his 'mother club' Adelaide City.

Marconi as early as in the ninth minute came close when from a Brendan Renaud corner, robust midfielder Darren McDonald rocked the post with his header.

Striker Norman Tome hit the target three minutes after the break but the flag over-ruled the goal.

With seconds left into stoppage time, Canberra's lanky stopper Toplica Popovich brought down Maisano inside the box for a chance from the spot. Maisano himself took the penalty but his rising drive clipped the cross-bar.

Best performers for Marconi were Costanzo, Renaud and Raphael Bove whilst for Canberra striker Jon Angelucci did marvellous work with a sparse quality ball-supply, along with wide midfielders Marcus Phillips and Alex Castro.

Canberra's former international and sweeper, Robbie Hooker, disappointedly commented: "Up until we lost a player, (Milin), we were well in the game I thought. Had we had a full team till the end of the match I believe that we would have gotten some of the points."

Marconi's coach Eddie Krncevic later stated: "It was always going to be tough against them as they were very well organised and extremely hard to break down. We could have scored earlier before they had their player sent off and deservingly so, but we didn't.

Angelo Costanzo: Man of the match.

"I believe that we deserved the win for sure, and after we scored we never really looked like losing the game, even though we missed a penalty near the end," summed up Marconi's coach who in the first two matches of the competition has now secured the maximum six League points.

Meanwhile Canberra's coach Tommy Sermanni, saw it a little differently, stating: "After our first two games of the season, and considering what problems we experienced during the off-season, I'm starting to feel a lot more positive.

"We've been most competitive in both games and I'm feeling much more pleased about a lot of things. I'm not too disappointed and hopefully we'll get better with more time together," ended Canberra's boss.

ABSW Player of the Year Points

ROUND TWO

Northern Spirit v Sydney Olympic
3 — B. Burgess (NS)
2 — N. Carle (SO)
1 — G. Arnold (NS)

Adelaide City v Sydney United
3 — D. Burt (SU)
2 — F. Awaritefe (SU)
1 — L. Pantelis (AC)

Marconi v Canberra Cosmos
3 — A. Costanzo (MS)
2 — J. Angelucci (CC)
1 — A. Castro (CC)

Melbourne Knights v Parramatta
3 — A. Elrich (PP)
2 — A. Kiratzoglou (MK)
1 — J. Griffiths (PP)

Newcastle Breakers v Brisbane
3 — S. Steffanuto (BS)
2 — C. Zoricich (NU)
1 — P. Grierson (BS)

Auckland Kingz v Eastern Pride
3 — T. Stevens (AK)
2 — J. Nilo (EP)
1 — N. Roach (EP)

Perth Glory v South Melbourne
3 — J. Petkovic (PG)
2 — M. Petkovic (SM)
1 — B. Despotovski (PG)

Carlton SC v Wollongong Wolves
3 — L. Lapsansky (C)
2 — S. Chipperfield (WW)
1 — A. Thompson (C)

PROGRESSIVE POINTS AFTER ROUND TWO

A. Costanzo	(Marconi Stallions)	6
N. Carle	(Sydney Olympic)	5
L. Lapsansky	(Carlton)	5
A. Thompson	(Carlton)	4
N. Roach	(Eastern Pride)	4
A. Vlahos	(South Melbourne)	3
A. Vargas	(Melbourne Knights)	3
B. Blake	(Wollongong Wolves)	3
Z. Arambasic	(Sydney United)	3
J. Nilo	(Eastern Pride)	3
B. Burgess	(Northern Spirit)	3
S. Steffanuto	(Brisbane Strikers)	3
D. Burt	(Sydney United)	3
T. Stevens	(Auckland Kingz)	3
J. Petkovic	(Perth Glory)	3
A. Elrich	(Parramatta Power)	3

SOCCER WOMAN

BY JANENE MAR

National League upon us

The focus now shifts from Olympic Games to top domestic football, as the 2000/2001 version of the national league is upon us, kicking off Friday 3 November.

This coming season will be the fifth season of the top domestic competition which remains an important selection platform to Australian and Youth Team honours.

This year's league will be a compact competition, five rounds held over three separate weekends followed by a semifinal and final. The championship decider is scheduled for Saturday 16 December.

Competing again this season are the teams of ACT, New South Wales, Northern NSW, Queensland, South Australia, and Victoria — the same as last year.

More league news next week ...

ROUND ONE

Fri 3 Nov	NNSW v VIC	Sydney
Fri 3 Nov	QLD v SA	Sydney
Fri 3 Nov	NSW v ACT	Sydney

ROUND TWO

Sun 5 Nov	SA v NNSW	Sydney
Sun 5 Nov	ACT v QLD	Sydney
Sun 5 Nov	VIC v NSW	Sydney

ROUND THREE

Fri 17 Nov	VIC v QLD	Canberra
Fri 17 Nov	NSW v NNSW	Canberra
Fri 17 Nov	ACT v SA	Canberra

ROUND FOUR

Sun 19 Nov	QLD v NSW	Canberra
Sun 19 Nov	SA v VIC	Canberra
Sun 19 Nov	NNSW v ACT	Canberra

ROUND FIVE

Sat 2 Dec	SA v NSW	Adelaide
Sat 2 Dec	VIC v ACT	Melb
Sat 2 Dec	NNSW v QLD	NNSW

SEMI-FINAL

Sat 9 Dec

2nd Place v 3rd Place — tbc

FINAL

Sat 16 Dec

1st Place v Winner of Semi — tbc

FOOTBALL NOT THE WINNER

Commentary

Yes, Norway won the Sydney 2000 Olympic gold medal with their drama-filled 3-2 golden goal victory over favourites USA. But was football also the winner?

Norway is synonymous with a direct, long-ball game, a rigid style of play they have maintained since their early days, and a style towards which the team's organisation and understanding is rock solid. Aerial power, physical strength, and hard work are important keys to its success.

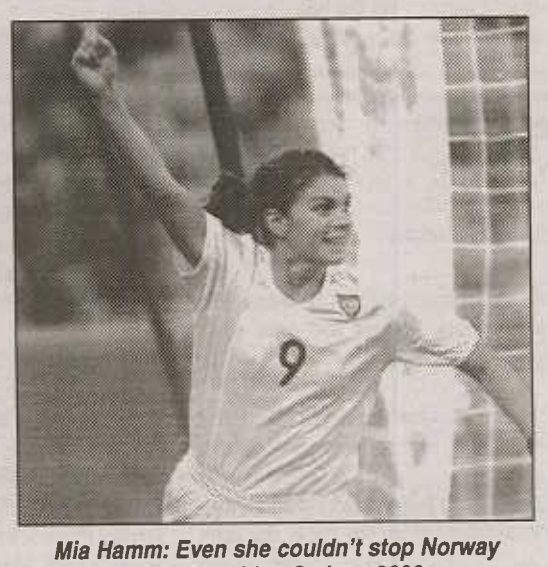
Their unfashionable style proved sufficient to pull them through to the coveted prize, but at what cost to the world game? And it appears they could well be hanging on to that system for years to come, (this 2000 Olympic Team consisting of a new band of Norwegian youngsters), unless the new Head Coach Age Steen is brave enough to enforce major changes.

The tragedy for women's football is that it has ended the impressive USA's four year reign, but also, more significantly, what we thought was the emerging dominance of skilful, technical football. At a stage when women's football was starting to blossom as an exciting entity in its own right, through the shadow of men's football, the attacking game was helping to lead that campaign.

Many considered Germany the team to make their mark in Sydney, proving themselves a formidable unit, enthralling to watch, disciplined in defence yet a class act in attack.

Yet, after winning all three group matches, the 1995 World Cup runners-up faltered at the crucial hurdle, handing Norway a late own goal in the semi-final, hence surrendering their chance at gold.

Likewise, USA and Brazil advanced through to the semis, who along with Germany, are renowned for their technical ability. Unfortunately it ended up being the Norwegians who stood upon the golden dais.



Mia Hamm: Even she couldn't stop Norway winning gold at Sydney 2000.

The demise of China in Sydney is just as much a disappointment. Seen as the masters of the technical game, China had promised so much after earning the silver in both Atlanta '96 and USA '99. But they too have fallen victim to the destructive Norway.

There is nothing wrong with wanting to win, and Norway have their gold medals after producing the goods when it mattered. They displayed good fighting spirit to twice fight back in pressure situations during the final.

After Norway's dominance in the early to mid-1990s, culminating in their World Cup win in 1995, they had somewhat slipped a little from their lofty mantle. Last year's World Cup saw them fail to win a medal at a major world event for the first time.

However, results this year against top two USA and China soon indicated they had struck back to be well in contention for an Olympic medal. In addition to their three wins over the US and two against China in Olympic preparations, Norway had re-confirmed their status as number one European team with six consecutive victories in European Championship qualifying matches.

Over recent years, it had been predicted Norway was on the way down as other teams worked out how to combat their traditional direct, long-ball style of play. This was plainly illustrated during the 1999 World Cup where Norway comfortably won their group matches, but were found sadly lacking once they hit the better teams from the semifinal stage. China embarrassed the defending champions 5-0, before Norway then failed to score against Brazil and lost in the penalty shootout.

Yet somehow, at these recent Olympics, they mastered their old style to even greater effect with a new team, and shot back to supremacy.

What matters to the football purist however, just as much as winning, is the way the game is played. Has Norway brought about a slowing of progress of women's soccer ?

AUSSIES IN WORLD ALL-STARS

Julie Murray: Selected.

Three Australians — Julie Murray, Bridgette Starr, and Sarah Cooper — are amongst the World All-Star Team competing against the USA in the 12-game tour which kicked off last Friday.

The tour, the second of its kind following the success of the 1999 World Cup throughout the USA, includes visits to seven of the eight WUSA markets. Format of play is a fast six-a-side indoor game.

Other World players include Brazil's Sissi, Patience of Nigeria, and Canadian Charmaine Hooper.

"KOALAS"

Gladesville Hornsby Women's Soccer Association

P.O. Box 525
Gladesville NSW 2111

COACHES WANTED

WOMENS STATE/SUPER LEAGUE
GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE U16's
GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE U14's

This strong Women's Association is seeking suitably qualified coaches for the above positions. Applicants should ring Adrian Jones **9808 2093** or **0418 406 800.**

PLAYERS WANTED

Players wanted for the above teams in 2001. First trial will be held 10am Sunday, October 29th, at George Kendall Reserve, Trumble Ave, Ermington. For further details ring Adrian Jones **9808 2093, 0418 406 800.**

FIRST INTERNATIONAL SIGNINGS

WUSA, the US' long-awaited women's professional league due to kick off this coming April, has signed its first eight international players.

Olympic champions Norway head the list with four signings — midfielder and 1995 World Cup Golden Boot winner Hege Riise, renowned goalkeeper Bente Nordby, defender/midfielder Gro Espeseth, and 1995 Golden Boot striker Ann Kristin Aarones.

Sweden boasts two in goalkeeper Ulrika Karlsson, plus defender Kristin Bengttson.

They are joined by class Canadian forward/midfielder Charmaine Hooper, and English striker (and US collegiate star) Kelly Smith.

WUSA will soon add another eight internationals to their ranks, and later will conduct a foreign player draft.

BELATED GOLD FOR NORWEGIAN

Norway's Anne Tonnessen has belatedly been named a Sydney 2000 gold medallist almost three weeks after her team's victory over the US in the final, although she has yet to receive the deserved award.

The 26-year-old defender learned of the news last Thursday at her home in Oslo.

Tonnessen played in Norway's Olympic opener against the US, but had to be substituted in the next match against Nigeria, suffering concussion.

As a result, Norway utilised the available rule which allows teams to make replacements of injured players with fresh 'alternate' players, even after competition has started. Tonnessen was replaced by Bente Kvitland.

Tonnessen's mother was so upset when no gold medal was awarded to Anne, that she wrote to IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch in complaint.

IOC Director of Sport Gilbert Felli responded, confirming that Tonnessen was entitled to the medal under Olympic rules as she had played at least once for the victorious team.

However, that particular rule had not been enforced in Sydney, Kvitland and reserve keeper Ingeborg Hovland receiving gold medals despite never taking the field.

Despite the confusion in rules, there seems no suggestion of these two losing their medals — instead nineteen medals will be the final total on this occasion.

Seven must be kidding

Dear Sir,

Having watched SBS "On the Ball" (Sunday AM) and learning that Channel 7 had won the coverage of National League Soccer — I looked up my TV guide for Tuesday night (Channel 7).

Low and behold, there it was — 12.10am. National League Soccer! Ten past midnight — they must be kidding!!

But who is to blame — Channel 7 or Soccer Australia?

They (Soccer Australia) sit there in their "Ivory Tower" and demand that clubs should "Promote the Game" and THEIR IDEA OF PROMOTION is to sell coverage to an organisation (presumably the highest bidders) who have virtually no interest in promoting the greatest game of all — in fact probably the reverse — their time slot inclines me to the opinion that they want soccer to remain a secret in this country.

Wake up Soccer Australia — accepting the highest bid may be good for salary security but does nothing to promote the game — this misguided decision — has sold the fans "Down the River" — AGAIN.

Roy Lowe,
Newcastle. NSW.

Roy, you make a valid point. My suggestion is to hound both Channel 7 and Soccer Australia. We are all sick of being regarded as second rate. — Ed.

MISS THE BOAT

Dear Sir,

Once again the NSL has missed the boat to get off to a flying start this season. Last year I mentioned they should have opened the season with a double header at Stadium Australia, this year it should have been a triple header, involving all five Sydney teams plus the Wollongong Wolves.

The event would have had to be played on a Saturday as to give fans enough time to watch all three games if they wanted to.

With the first game starting at 2.30pm, the second at 5pm and the third at 7.30pm, the extravaganza would have given the fans a smorgasbord of top line soccer for the local public coming off a high from the recent success of the Olympic games in the City.

Okay, I realise that there is a lot involved in organising such an event, such as compensating the three clubs for giving up there home ground advantage, plus other problems in squeezing the event in between the finish of the main Olympic Games and the Paralympic's which follow, but if the Rugby League people can overcome such problems at the start of their season, why can't soccer take the risk as well.

The problem to me looks like a lack of confidence in risk taking by the head body in soccer.

It's too immersed into political infighting among themselves and the clubs to worry too much about where the local game is headed, that it basically has given up running the local competition in partnership with the clubs.

It's concentrating more on the international scene with all that's involved for all the different age National squads, plus now the Women's National team.

It's a shame really, as it is the domestic competition at the highest level which is in need of the most attention not just the international teams.

The Australian public has proven its support for the game at International level for decades now, but it's still not the case with the NSL just yet.

Finally with such a start the three games at one venue would have attracted 80 to 100,000 spectators, if advertised and marketed properly in advance and would have made a profit for Soccer Australia, as Channel Seven would probably have shown the games live as well.

You only have to have an average price of $20 a ticket to give you a $2 million gate with a full house. It's just a pity that our Soccer Officials don't have the gumption (balls) to give it a go.

Dominic Scullino,
Nerang, Qld.

Not a bad idea, although too late now obviously. But how sure are you that Channel Seven would have shown the event? — Ed.

Down the garden path

Dear Sir,

Again the NSL has been led down the garden path by Channel 7 the "rights" owner of broadcasting local soccer.

Channel 7 have INSULTED all followers of the sport with their replays — 12.10am Wednesday mornings. SBS and the ABC have missed out again. Channel 7 only need to look at figures they reached in the Olympic games to target their audience.

The bosses at "7" give a scant regard for soccer in Australia as shown by them to bury it in the "graveyard" hours.

Come on SEVEN play ball with the supporters of the code and put the replays on at a decent hour.

Laurie Williams,
Morwell. Vic.

Here! Here! — Ed.

Letters to the Editor

Management counts

Dear Sir,

Unlike Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal, Chelsea, Newcastle and other clubs Leeds United do not have massive financial resources or even a huge following.

Yet they are challenging for top honours because of astute management and an unrivalled player development system that includes many Aussie players.

Few people would be aware of the longstanding connection between West Yorkshire and Australia in sport going back one hundred years.

By 1900 Football had spread across England to become the dominant game in all major centres except for West Yorkshire.

This area centred on Leeds was Rugby League's heartland with not one professional Football club and only a few amateur clubs. After 1900 a concerted effort was made to establish football throughout West Yorkshire.

Rugby League tried to retaliate by taking their game to soccer areas without success. In 1907 more by accident than design an opportunity arose where it became possible to establish RL in Australia (NSW & QLD).

Partly because of their problems at home the English RL jumped at the opportunity and gave Australian RL invaluable support in its formative years.

One hundred years on and while RL is still a force in West Yorkshire it is only a shadow of the game it once was. Nowadays soccer is Number One in West Yorks with Leeds Utd the standard bearer.

However in a strong twist of fate Leeds Utd recent success also has a distant Aussie flavour. Kewell, Viduka, Burns, and others are playing a critical part in making Leeds Utd the force they are in the Premier League and Europe.

R. Melor,
Bondi. NSW. 2026

Funny how Aussies always seem to be at the forefront of success isn't it? — Ed.

SBS hard done by

Dear Sir,

It is with a great level of disgust that I write this letter, having found out that Channel Nine has the rights to the next World Cup.

They have always shown disdain for the sports they cover, and will not show every game as they should if they were serious about covering this event.

This is criminal and obscene. I guess we will have some half-baked commentators covering it like Kenny or Eddy who know absolutely nothing about the game.

When you think how much time and effort SBS put in to covering soccer and the great job Les Murray does, it is a tragedy that the game is sacrificed to commercialism once again.

There is nothing we can do about it I guess, but I think it is a disgrace and I believe I am not alone in this regard.

Sean Harding,
by fax

It's a difficult call isn't it. I'm certainly sorry to see it leave SBS and I can imagine how the Channel Nine commentators will have trouble wrapping their tongues around some of those overseas surnames. — Ed.

AUSSIES AROUND THE GLOBE

With Arvind Hickman ***Did you know that there are over 100 Australian soccer players playing their trade in many of the top leagues around the world? Every year new names emerge on the world stage, painting the picture of green and gold into a portrait of global recognition Aussie Around The Globe is our weekly look at the exploits of these players and their performance.***

Mirko "Miki" Jurilj has been accused of match fixing and is currently on trial in Singapore.

Jurilj allegedly accepted bribes from free-lance golf instructor Sivakumar Madasamy, who bet on three games in which Jurilj played.

Jurilj signed a confession on July 31 claiming that he had helped Madasamy fix three matches, but had lost each bet. If convicted Jurilj will face a fine of up to 100,000 Singapore dollars and a possible jail sentence of up to five years.

Danny Tiatto has re-signed for Manchester City until the end of the 2003/04 season.

Danny's manager, Frank Tiatto, negotiated the deal after his previous contract had a clause which allowed renegotiation if the club were to be promoted from Division One.

"He didn't settle very well in that first year, but Joe Royle did say he'd give him a year to settle, and he certainly made his mark last season," Frank Tiatto said.

"The thing that stands out at Maine Road is the place is very friendly, the atmosphere's very good and it's just a very good environment to be part of."

Shaun Murphy has also agreed to a new deal with Sheffield United that will see him with the 'Blades' for three more years.

Danny Tiatto: New deal at Manchester City.

England: *Premier League:* Mark Viduka and Jacob Burns both played full games as Leeds United were soundly defeated by Manchester United 3-0.

It is the third game in a row for Burns, following his debut last week and a midweek Champions League game against Beskitas, were they drew 0-0.

John Aloisi was substituted in Coventry City's 6-1 thrashing by Chelsea.

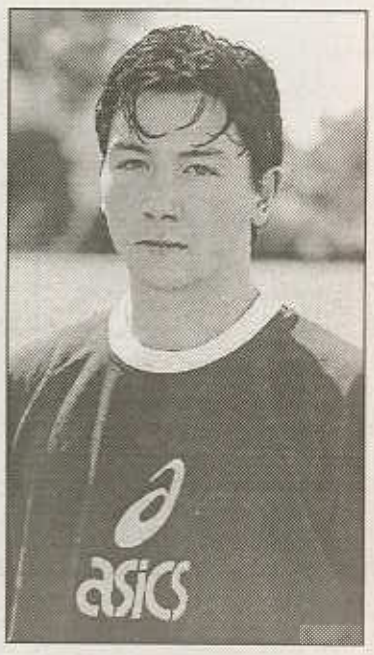
Division 1: Aussies who played over the weekend included John Filan, Jason Kearton, Shaun Murphy, Jason Van Blerk and Kevin Muscat, all having full games.

Division 2-3: Tony Dorigo fronted up against Tim Cahill and Lucas Neill, and came out on top as Stoke City defeated Millwall 3-2, with all three playing full games.

Other Aussies in action included Daniel Invincibile, Lee Howells, Andrew McDermott and Richard Garcia, who scored a goal for Leyton Orient.

Germany: Paul Agostino came on in the 52nd minute as 1860 Munich lost 3-1 to Bayern Munich. Ned Zelic did not feature at all and was out last week with a foot injury.

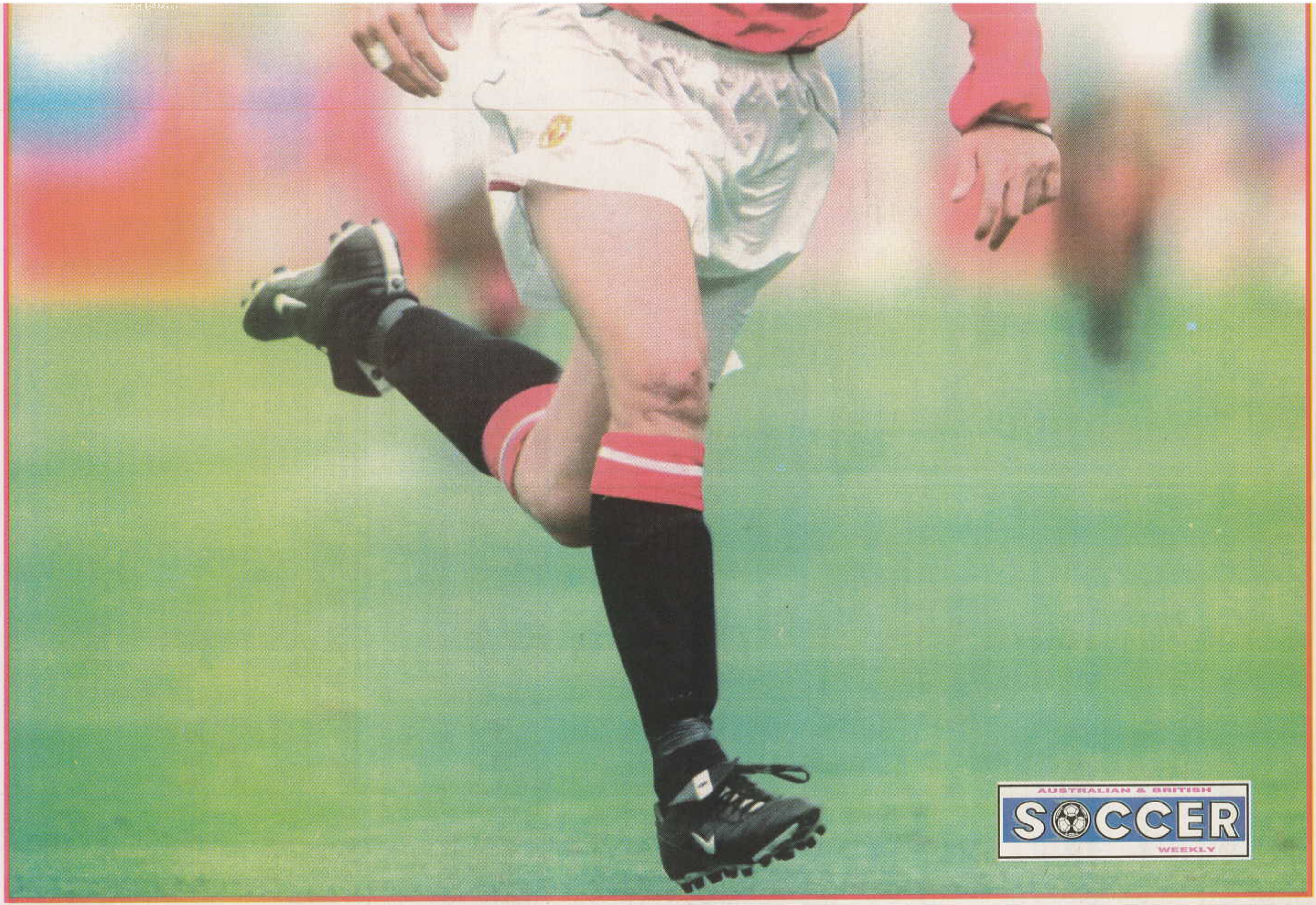
David Zdrilic came on in the 85th minute as SpVgg Unterhaching drew 2-2 with VfB Stuttgart.



Jacob Burns: Three games in a row for Leeds.

Ole Gunner Solskjaer

(Manchester United & Norway)


AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH
SOCCER
WEEKLY

National Youth League 2000/2001

NORTHERN DIVISION (ROUNDS 1 & 2)

SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER 2000

Parramatta Power 1
(Berry 83')

Marconi Stallions 2
(Mondello 38', Last 41')

Wollongong Wolves 4
(Dellis 16' 35',Kencevski 53' 75')

ACT Academy 0

Q.A.S. 2
(Dreger 28', Morely 68')

Sydney Olympic Academy 1
(Goutzioulis 62')

SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER 2000

Marconi Stallions Colts 0

A.I.S. 3
(Richter 13' 50', Hrehoresin 85')

Sydney Olympic 1
(Seitis 55')

N.S.W.I.S. 1
(Timpano 60')

Northern Spirit 3
(Vasili 4', Macrae 17', Catanzaro 40')

Sydney United 2
(Jordan 69' 79')

***Bye** - Canberra Cosmos*

***Deferred** - Newcastle United Youth versus Newcastle United Colts*
(date to be advised)

	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
Wollongong Wolves	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**3**
A.I.S.	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	3
Northern Spirit	1	1	0	0	0	3	2	3
Marconi Stallion Youth	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	3
Q.A.S.	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	3
N.S.W.I.S.	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1
Sydney Olympic Youth	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1
Newcastle United Colts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newcastle United Youth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canberra Cosmos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sydney United	1	0	0	0	1	2	3	0
Parramatta Power	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0
Sydney Olympic Academy	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0
Marconi Stallions Colts	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
ACT Academy	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	0

FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER 2000

Newcastle United 3
(Haynes 35', Juchniewicz 66' 76')

QAS 0

SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER 2000

Northern Spirit 3
(Hunter 75', R. Griffiths 88', Catanzaro 90')

Sydney Olympic Youth 2

AIS 1
(Grenell 15')

Sydney United 0

SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER 2000

Sydney Olympic Academy 1
(own goal Reddy')

Parramatta Power 1
(Santalab 36')

ACT Academy 0

Marconi Stallions Colts 7
(Tavoutksis 4' 15, '45', Brosque 8' 43', Bugallo 56' 77')

Marconi Stallions Youth 3
(Babic 20', Mondello 33', Sauturaga 55')

Canberra Cosmos 0

***Bye** - Wollongong Wolves*

***Deferred** - NSWIS versus Newcastle United Colts*
(rescheduled for 11 March 2001 at 4:00pm)

	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
Northern Spirit	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**6**	**4**	**6**
Marconi S. Youth	2	2	0	0	0	5	1	6
Marconi S. Colts	2	1	0	0	1	7	3	3
Wollongong Wolves	1	1	0	0	0	4	0	3
A.I.S.	2	2	0	0	0	4	1	6
Newcastle Utd Youth	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	3
Q.A.S.	2	1	0	0	1	2	4	3
N.S.W.I.S.	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1
Sydney O. Youth	2	0	1	0	1	3	4	1
Parramatta Power	2	0	1	0	1	2	3	1
Sydney O. Academy	2	0	1	0	1	2	3	1
Newcastle Utd Colts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sydney United	2	0	0	0	2	2	4	0
Canberra Cosmos	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
ACT Academy	2	0	0	0	2	0	11	0

LEADING SCORERS

Nick Tavoutksis	Marconi Stallions Colts	3
Peter Juchniewicz	Newcastle United	2
Anthony Mondello	Marconi Stallions Youth	2
Alex Brosque	Marconi Stallions Colts	2
Jeff Bugallo	Marconi Stallions Colts	2
Nick Tavoutksis	Marconi Stallions Colts	3
Peter Juchniewicz	Newcastle United	2
Anthony Mondello	Marconi Stallions Youth	2
Alex Brosque	Marconi Stallions Colts	2
Jeff Bugallo	Marconi Stallions Colts	2
Simon Catanzaro	Northern Spirit	2
Leighal Dellis	Wollongong Wolves	2
Jason Kencevski	Wollongong Wolves	2
Jonathan Richter	AIS	2
Steven Jordan	Sydney United	2

SOUTHERN DIVISION

DRAFT DRAW FOR ROUND ONE

Saturday 28 October 2000

Eastern Pride v Green Gully, 4 pm, Mobil Stadium
VIS v Altona Magic, 4 pm, Grange Reserve

Sunday 29 October 2000

Bulleen v Preston, 4 pm Veneto Club

Carlton Peninsula Blues v Melbourne Knights, 4 pm, To be arranged

South Melbourne v Carlton, 7 pm, Bob Jane Stadium

Melbourne Knights Colts v Albury Wodonga, 4 pm, Knights Stadium

Fawkner v Bye

South Melbourne Colts v Bye.

The Southern Division of the National Youth League will kick off next week, corresponding with Round 3 of the National Soccer League. At time of writing it looks as if there may be 14 teams taking part in the competition.

Carlton, South Melbourne and Melbourne Knights may have two teams, a youth team and a colts team, while Eastern Pride, the Victorian Institute of Sport, Albury-Wodonga and five teams from the Victorian Soccer Federation Premier League clubs make up the numbers. Altona Magic, Green Gully Cavaliers, Preston Lions, Bulleen Inter Kings and Fawkner Blues will represent the Premier League.

Carlton's Colts side will be known as the Carlton Peninsula Blues, indicating the continued hard work in junior development which has been such a feature of Carlton's activities since it joined the National League. Its arrangement with the Geelong-based Western Victoria Soccer Association will continue in 2001 as will other feeder arrangements. Phil Stubbins has taken over as coach of Carlton Youth. He succeeds former Socceroo keeper Jeff Olver who has become youth development at South Melbourne. Luciano Trani is looking after the Melbourne Knights youth team. Other coaches in office for the new year include John Romano at Bulleen, Willie Vassallo at Green Gully and Kenny Murphy at Fawkner. So the youngsters will be in good hands.

Ernie Merrick remains as Head Coach of the VIS assisted by a former graduate of the Institute, Aaron Healey, who has already demonstrated his prowess as a youth coach.

Fourteen clubs will give the competition viability and interest which it lacked last year, though there remains a problem in tying the fixture to the senior competition. This may mean that byes occur rather more frequently than is ideal. At this stage the draw had not been finalised but the draft currently being considered appears at the end of this report. Please contact the home club before attending the venue at the weekend.

STARS IN THE MAKING

ABSW's Mark Stavroulakis continues his weekly look at Junior Soccer in Australia.

Franco Parisi

AT A GLANCE

Full Name:	Franco Parisi
Club:	AIS
DOB:	3/5/83
Left/Right:	Right
Eye Colour:	Hazel
Hair Colour:	Brown
Height:	179cm
Weight:	70kg
Positions Played:	Striker

THE STATS & FACTS

Clubs Played At:
U13 — U15 Leichardt Tigers
U16 — Sydney Olympic
U17 — Sydney Olympic Colts
Currently 9 months at the AIS

Age Started Playing Soccer: 7

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight To Date: Being the U15's top goal scorer of the competition, gaining an AIS scholarship, lastly scoring 17 goals in my first year at National Youth League level.
Ambition: To represent Australia and to play overseas
Words Of Advice: 'Success only comes before work in the dictionary'
Best Advice Received: 'Never show surprise, never loose your cool'

PERSONALITY INSIGHT

Favourite Actor: Wesley snipes
Favourite Actress: Jennifer Love Hewitt
Top 5 Movies:
-Cocktail
-Hurricane
-The Color of Money
-Gone In 60 Seconds
-Scary Movie
Favourite Comedian: Andrew Dice Clay
If you could be a character from any movie who would you be? Nicholas Cage in Gone in 60 seconds.
Best ever concert: Gatecrasher Sound System Tour
5 Cd's You Couldn't Do Without?
-Emeniem
-Summer in Ibiza
-Hit mania 2000
-Ministry of Sound Annual
-Clubbers Guide to Ibiza
Favourite TV show: Italian Soccer
Favourite Cartoon Character: Homer Simpson
Dinner Party For 6, Who Would You Invite?
6 stunning girls with as little clothes as possible
Entrée: Pizza
Main Course: Pizza
Dessert: Ice Cream

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: Ruud Van Nisterlooy
Favourite Overseas Team: Ac Milan
Most Admired Australian Player (Local Based): James Kovas
Most Admired Australian Player (Overseas Based): Zenon Carvella
Most Admired Defender: Fabio Cannavaro
Most Admired Midfielder: Francesco Totti
Most Admired Striker: Ruud Van Nisterlooy
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Buffon
Hardest Opponent (Played): My brother (Vince) in the backyard

AIS are a renowned 'Powerhouse' of producing good Australian soccer players from a very young age. Professionalism is the key word at the AIS, as that is the ultimate of being a good soccer player.

One such player who is currently apart of the system in Canberra is goal scoring machine, Franco Parisi.

The young 17-year-old who last year gained a yearís scholarship at the AIS worked very hard in getting to where he is today.

Parisi represent NSW in '99 where he was apart of a very talented Under 16's squad. "The Nationals were held in Canberra, it was a good tournament as the best players were present from across Australia. We unfortunately lost to Victoria three-one in the final so it was disappointing," said a depleted Parisi.

However it was his strong performances at Canberra under the blue and white jersey that caught the eye of AIS Head coach Steve OfConnor. "After the Nationals finished, the AIS picked their new squad and I was one of the players chosen. I was extremely happy as it really consolidated for the loss in the National finals", said Franco.

The AIS has had much success in past years bringing up good talents through the ranks of Australian soccer. 'Franky' believes that the setup is very professional. "I've spent 9 months at the AIS, and it's been brilliant. On and off the field you are treated as a professional.

It's a place where I've realized that I've become much more independent as I can cook and clean for myself. It's made me mature as person and it's given me a bonus by being able to say that I can live by myself. My ambition is to go to Europe, if my dream comes true, I'm on my own but at least I know now that I'm ready to accept the challenge. The place itself has the best facilities in Australia.

Franco Parisi: Maturity beyond his years.

The pitches, doctors all at your doorstep, it's an awesome experience," said the young striker.

Franco's start to the new season has been put back however as sickness has troubled the young star. "Through the off-season I was always having the flu, or getting sick in some way. I recently took my tonsils out and that was why I missed my first match against the Marconi Colts in Sydney.

Pre-season for me was non-existent, but it has given me the urge to play even more. I canít wait to get back on that pitch and score goals," said the lethal weapon.

The former St Pat's student has also had offers overseas but declined them, as he wants to play first team football here first. "I've had trial offers from Italian clubs but I want to go there as a complete player, and I must play first grade as I need more experience," said Franco.

His deal with the AIS was a one year scholarship, the second being optional, but Franco believes anything is possible until his time ends at the Institute. "My contract finishes in December, but I would be more than happy to extend it if I get the chance. I just want to do what I do best and thatís play football," said Parisi.

Last year before his step up to the Institute, Parisi scored an impressive 17 goals in his first year at National Youth League level with the Sydney Olympic Colts. "I really had a good first year, and it was a good feeling scoring those goals as it gave me confidence. I want to do that again this year," said the AIS player.

The Institute itself embarked in a great tournament last season that was one of Franco's highlights. It was held in Italy where the best clubs from Brazil, Italy, Argentina, Slovenia, USA and African countries took part in a world tournament for the Under 16's category.

"It was an unbelievable experience, for three weeks we played against quality opposition. We went as far as the quarterfinals, which was a great achievement. We beat Lazio one-nil and played one of the best styles of soccer seen at the tournament, even the Italian crowd applauded us after our victory. We drew one-all with River Plate and beat a Slovenian side five-nil. Udinese gave us a lesson when we lost four-one in the quarters but all in all it was something that I'll always remember," said the young star.

The new soccer season has started, and already players and teams have made names for themselves.

Apart from the National League, the National Youth League is in the swing of things and many young players are staking claims to play first grade this year for their respective clubs.

One such player who is currently in the thick of things is 'big man' Damien Pisano. At the age of 19, this youngster is an apprentice at Northern Spirit.

To get to there however, tireless work and training was needed and 'Damo' did this in his many fruitful years as a junior. "Playing at Manly Warringah was the first stepping stone towards my career into the National League. My first big test was playing for the Sydney Olympic Colts at the age of 16.

That was a highlight as I was playing against bigger and tougher opponents.

The second year at Olympic was even more enjoyable as I had a year's experience and took it from there. My last year I spent at Olympic was in the Youth side where I knew that I learned a lot as a player and matured greatly," said Damien.

Pisano admits that his biggest influence so far in his short career has been his father who has been everywhere since his early beginnings as a player. "My dad was always there for me, at training sessions and at matches wishing me well, heís been my best supporter," said Pisano.

The lanky left flanker embarked on a huge turnover this year, as after three years he decided to part company with Olympic and join the mighty Northern Spirit. "It was in the off season I got a call from the Northern Spirit club who were interested in me. I had no idea they had me in their plans as one of the nine or 10 apprentices at the club. I jumped at the chance and I haven't had any regrets since," said the former Olympic youth player.

Damien Pisano: Looking forward to a big year ahead.

At the time, 'Damo' was also approached by Marconi, who had showed interest in the 'big fella', but decided to sign for Northern Spirit.

"Marconi did approach me and it was a tough decision to make, but I decided to go to Spirit. I'm on a one-year apprentice deal, which is full-time. That meant that I had to defer from my university studies so I could concentrate more on soccer," said Pisano.

Apprentices are said to be the start of a young soccer player's career to the top, and Damien believes it's a necessity to get to the highest level possible.

"Northern Spirit have apprentices like myself that wash the gear, set up and pick up the training gear and generally always assisting the first grade players. It doesn't sound nice but just think that this time next year if I'm still at the club, the next apprentices will be doing the same. It's a soccer life cycle you could say," said the Australian Catholic University student.

Pre-season has been non-existent for this young man as he has just came back from trials in Italy. "I trialled for Cosenza, a Serie B side. It was a week's trial and I enjoyed the experience. They are a very professional side, compared to us here they are much more technical, but physically we are much better. They asked me to come back next April-May after my season is over here, to have yet another look at me," said the lucky 17-year-old.

Something that's always a hard thing to do as a young soccer player is to face your previous club and Pisano did that last week. "Last week's game saw us play the Sydney Olympic Youth at Christie Park. It was my first game back since returning from Italy. I didn't do too badly but my match fitness wasn't up to scratch. It was so weird seeing all the old faces again before the match, sharing jokes and catching up on lost time, but luckily for me and the side we won 3-2 so it was a relief as well," said Pisano.

Asked about his squad for this year, Pisano strongly agrees that a top five spot is on the cards. "We have a solid squad and all the boys are keen to play. A Top five spot should be cemented by our side,"said 'Damo'.

Damien Pisano

AT A GLANCE

Full Name:	Damien Pisano
Club:	Northern Spirit
DOB:	9/4/81
Left/Right:	Left
Eye Colour:	Brown
Hair Colour:	Black
Height:	194cm
Weight:	80kg
Positions Played:	Left Wing or Left Flank

THE STATS & FACTS

Clubs Played At:
U13 — U16 — Manly Warringah
Spent 2 years at Sydney Olympic Colts and last year at Sydney Olympic Youth

Age Started Playing Soccer: 6

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight To Date: Meeting Pele in '94, trialling in Italy for Cosenza and lastly becoming an apprentice at Northern Spirit.
Ambition: Make the starting 11 Spirit side and play overseas.
Words Of Advice: 'Listen to your coaches and train hard'
Best Advice Received: 'Always give 100 percent' (Tom) Father

PERSONALITY INSIGHT

Favourite Actor: Sylvester Stallone
Favourite Actress: Salma Hayek
Top 5 Movies:
-Rocky IV
-Desperado
-The Godfather
-Face Off
-Rush Hour
Favourite Comedian: Eddie Murphy
If you could be a character from any movie who would you be? Michael Douglas in Basic Instinct
Best ever concert: WWF wrestling in Canada
5 Cd's You Couldn't Do Without?
-Ministry of Sound — The Annual
-Various Wild Fm Cds
-George Michael — Greatest Hits
-Various 99:3 Volumes
-WWF Volume 3 Cd
Favourite TV show: Raw Is War
Favourite Cartoon Character: Coyote
Dinner Party For 6, Who Would You Invite?
-Salma Hayek
-Cindy Crawford
-Alyssa Milano
-Roberto Baggio
-The Rock
-Shania Twain
Entrée: Antipasto
Main Course: Pasta
Dessert: Chocolate Mudcake

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: Roberto Baggio
Favourite Overseas Team: Juventus
Most Admired Australian Player (Local Based): Simon Colosimo
Most Admired Australian Player (Overseas Based): Mark Viduka
Most Admired Defender: Paolo Maldini
Most Admired Midfielder: Francesco Totti
Most Admired Striker: Alessandro Del Piero
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Peter Schmeichel
Hardest Opponent (Played): Brett Emerton

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Arsenal through to Phase Two

Lazio	1
Arsenal	1

Frenchman Robert Pires scored a dramatic 88th-minute equaliser to give Arsenal a 1-1 draw at Lazio and a place in the second group stage of the Champions League.

Pires took advantage of an uncharacteristic mistake by Lazio centre back Alessandro Nesta, who misjudged the flight of a long through ball from Sylvain Wiltord and allowed Pires to scamper down the Arsenal left.

He curled his right-foot shot past Angelo Peruzzi and high into the left hand side of the Lazio net.

Arsenal's goal justified coach Arsene Wenger's decision to shuffle his side in search of a breakthrough. Both Pires and Wiltord had come on as second half substitutes.

Lazio had appeared to be heading for a 1-0 win courtesy of a lucky goal from Pavel Nedved in the 24th minute.

The Czech's shot from the edge of the box looped off the boot of his marker Serginho and dropped into the right-hand side of the Arsenal goal, where John Lukic was making his first appearance in over three and a half years.

Wenger's side started a damp night in Rome by leaving centre back Tony Adams on the bench and giving Lukic his surprise call-up at the age of 39.

He was drafted in to replace England goalkeeper David Seaman, who has a back injury, and second-choice goalkeeper Alex Manninger of Austria, who is out long term.

Arsenal's defenders shielded their keeper admirably in the opening 15 minutes as Lazio took the initiative without ever truly threatening.

The Czech's shot appeared to balloon off Serginho's boot just as the little Brazilian made his challenge. It looped up and over the unfortunate Lukic, who could do nothing to stop it dropping into the back of his net.

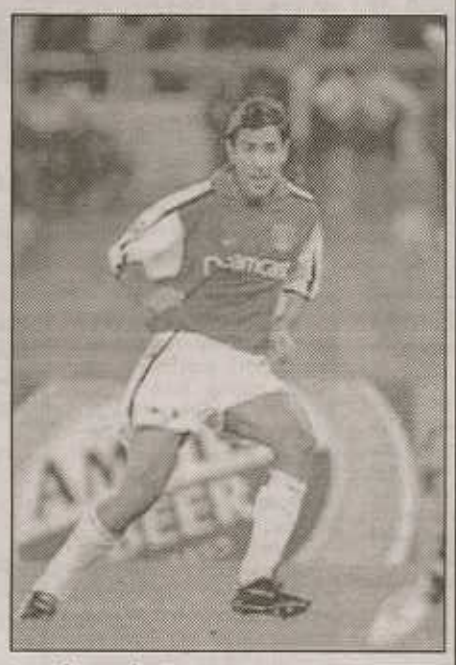
Serginho almost set the record straight 12 minutes later when he wriggled past Dejan Stankovic on the Arsenal left and cut back inside Nesta to give himself a clear view of goal from 12 metres out.

But he wasted time trying to pull the ball back on to his favoured left foot and squandered the chance.

The match turned nasty in the second half.

Lazio's Argentine midfielder Diego Simeone ended the tie with his head bandaged to stem bleeding from a nasty gash over his left eye and Arsenal's Martin Keown will miss his side's next match after being booked.

The bad blood was still apparent after the match. Simeone squared up to Grimandi as the teams headed for the changing-rooms and Nesta and fellow defender Sinisa Mihajlovic were also involved in scuffles with Arsenal players.



Arsenal's Robert Pires scores the equaliser past Lazio keeper Angelo Peruzzi.

Austrians down Monaco

Sturm Graz	2
Monaco	0

Midfielder Markus Schopp scored twice as Sturm Graz stunned Monaco with a 2-0 win in their Champions League Group D match last week.

The victory comes three weeks after the Austrian underdogs were thrashed 5-0 by the French club in Monaco.

Schopp opened the scoring for Sturm in the 40th minute by taking advantage of an error by Monaco goalkeeper Stephane Porato, who failed to hold a shot by Tomislav Kocijan. Schopp shot over the bar two minutes later.

Monaco, who were virtually outplayed by Sturm in the first half, stepped up a gear in the second half and were unlucky when a shot by Dado Prso hit the post in the 75th minute.

Schopp netted again in the 88th minute after a pass from Kocijan. He will miss Sturm's match against Rangers next week after being booked for a foul shortly before the break.

Valencia secure further progress

Lyon	1
Valencia	2

Last season's losing finalists Valencia beat 10-man Olympique Lyon 2-1 in their Champions League Group C match last week to go through to the next round.

Juan Sanchez, top scorer in the Spanish league, scored shortly before the break from a cross by John Carew to stun Lyon, who had dominated for most of the first half.

The French side's pressure was even stronger in the beginning of the second half but the dismissal of midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe on the hour for a second booking broke their momentum.

Ruben Baraja made it 2-0 five minutes before the final whistle on a counter-attack and Lyon had to be content with a consolation goal in injury time thanks to a fine header from Steve Marlet.

With three losses in their last three games in the competition, Lyon's Champions League future looks in doubt.

Valencia have won their four games in the competition and again look among its leading favourites.

Olympic Lyon captain Florent Laville tries to stop Valencia captain Giazka Mendieta.

Dull draw keeps Galatasaray top

Rangers	0
Galatasaray	0

Galatasaray stayed top of Champions League Group D after a disappointing 0-0 draw with Rangers at Ibrox last week which leaves the group wide open.

Both sides are tied on seven points with Sturm Graz on six and Monaco on three, but the UEFA Cup holders 3-2 home win over Dick Advocaat's side three weeks ago gives them the edge at the top.

On a wet night the match failed to hit any heights, although the best chances fell to Rangers who were missing four of their first choice line-up.

A cross in the 62nd minute from substitute Neil McCann caused a collision between Galatasaray goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel and his team mate Korkmaz Bulent, but the ball slipped away from the waiting Andrei Kanchelskis.

With 12 minutes left, Taffarel saved his side when McCann's header from six yards out hit his feet after an excellent cross from Ronald De Boer.

Mario Jardel hit a post for Galatasaray five minutes into the second half but German referee Markus Merk called play back for a foul by the Brazilian striker on Tony Vidmar.

Rangers' Peter Lovenkrands shots just wide against Galatasaray at Ibrox.

Heerenveen victory makes no real change

Heerenveen	1
Olympiakos	0

Heerenveen snatched their first victory in the Champions League when they beat Olympiakos of Greece 1-0 last week, but stay bottom of Group C.

The Dutch side left it late in a dull and slow game to secure victory, but their persistence finally paid off in the 82nd minute.

Mika Nurmela appeared to be struck in the face by Christos Kontis, winning a free kick on the right side of the box. His well-placed dead-ball effort allowed Daniel Jensen to speed through the defence and head home.

Heerenveen could have added a second goal in the final minute. Again it was Nurmela who pushed up on the right, but towering forward Harris Huizingh was a fraction too slow to bury the ball in the net.

In an often scrappy game — there were six yellow cards — the visitors failed to find their rhythm and played poorly, but remain second in the group.

Spartak crush Sporting

Sporting Lisbon	0
Spartak Moscow	3

Midfielder Egor Titov scored twice and made the third as Spartak Moscow beat Sporting 3-0 in the Champions League last week.

Spartak, who beat Sporting 3-1 at home three weeks ago, enjoyed a dose of luck when they took the lead after just 16 minutes of the group A game.

Titov crossed from the left and the ball bounced off Sporting defender Dimas Teixeira into the net with goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel stranded.

But luck had nothing to do with Spartak's other two goals.

First, Titov beat Schmeichel from the edge of the area after a mix-up in the Sporting defence after 52 minutes, then the same player rose to head home after a corner in the 67th.

Sporting had plenty of chances to pull one back but were continually denied by an inspired Alexander Filimonov in the Spartak goal.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Rivaldo hat-trick stuns San Siro

AC Milan	3
Barcelona	3

Barcelona's Rivaldo hit a hat-trick in a thrilling 3-3 Champions League draw at AC Milan last week.

The Brazilian fired Barcelona ahead in the 19th minute of the group H match with a low free-kick which skidded past Milan goalkeeper Christian Abbiati.

But Milan were level six minutes later thanks to a sweetly struck long-range drive from midfielder Demetrio Albertini.

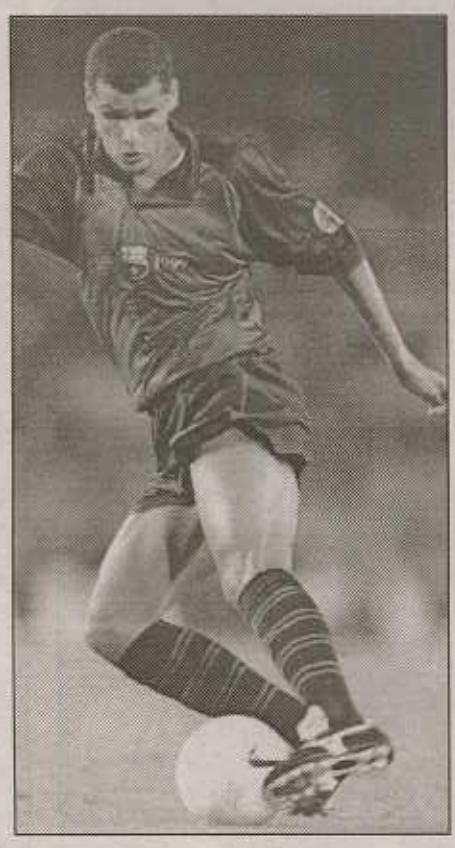
Albertini then struck again to put the Italians ahead with a thundering free-kick from 25 metres out which gave Barca's French goalkeeper Richard Dutruel no chance.

But anything Albertini could do, Rivaldo could do better and within four minutes he had brought Barcelona level with a simply unstoppable free-kick which flew into the top left-hand corner of Abbiati's goal.

On the stroke of halftime, Oliver Bierhoff's close-range effort was blocked by Dutruel but Milan's Spanish striker Jose Mari pounced to scramble the ball home.

Milan were on top after the break but once again Rivaldo showed why he was voted World Player of the Year by equalising in the 68th minute, with a textbook header from an excellent Sergi cross.

The Brazilian came close to grabbing a dramatic winner 10 minutes from time but his header from another Sergi cross looped just over the bar.



Rivaldo: Hat-trick hero for Barcelona as the Catalan's drew 3-3 with AC Milan at the San Siro.

Minnows secure first win

Shakhtar Donetsk	2
Sparta Prague	1

Shakhtar Donetsk earned their first Champions League points when they beat Sparta Prague 2-1 in their group B match last week.

Ukraine international Hennady Zubov scored the winner with a penalty three minutes from time after Sparta defender Zdenek Grygera handled the ball in the box and was sent off.

The Czech champions took the lead in the 16th minute when tall Sparta defender Jiri Jarosik headed home from a corner kick after rising above the Shakhtar defence.

The Ukrainians could have had an equaliser two minutes later but Sparta goalkeeper Tomas Postulka saved a penalty from Andriy Vorobei after Vladimir Labant brought down Shakhtar's top striker in the box.

Shakhtar had to wait until the 35th minute for the equaliser, with Lithuanian international Dainius Gleveskas heading in.

June grab vital point in Spain

Deportivo La Coruna	1
Juventus	1

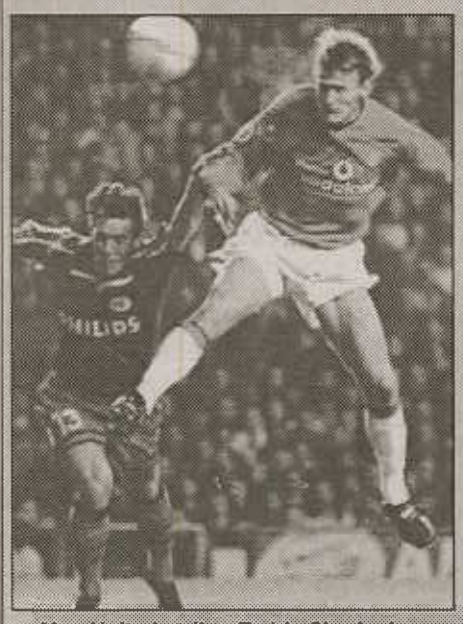
Deportivo La Coruna were left to rue a host of missed chances as they were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Juventus in their Champions League Group E clash last week.

The Italians, missing the suspended Zinedine Zidane, took the lead after 10 minutes as Filippo Inzaghi crashed in on the rebound after a Mark Iuliano volley was cleared off the line.

Deportivo equalised a couple of minutes later, though, with Victor taking advantage of a mistake from goalkeeper Edwin Van der Sar to deflect in a Turu Flores shot, and after that the Spanish champions were in control.

Victor side-footed wide after being set clear on goal by a measured Djalminha through ball and the Brazilian midfielder then swept just over the bar from 30 metres. Diego Tristan blasted over in injury-time after winning a freekick on the edge of the box.

United get late win



Man United striker Teddy Sheringham heads home the first goal against PSV Eindhoven at Old Trafford.

Manchester United	3
PSV Eindhoven	1

Manchester United eased to 3-1 victory over PSV Eindhoven to move to the top of Champions League Group G.

United always looked comfortable once Teddy Sheringham headed them ahead in the eighth minute from a David Beckham corner after losing marker Chris Van Der Weerden.

Sheringham then shot over and Ronny Johnsen saw a thumping header come back of the bar as the English champions piled on the first-half pressure.

But after the break they relaxed and paid the price in the 75th minute when a weak defensive header by

Mikael Silvestre fell to Mark Van Bommel who blasted the ball past Fabien Barthez.

But United immediately stepped up the pace and Silvestre made amends for his error as he crossed for Paul Scholes to make it 2-1 in the 82nd minute.

Dwight Yorke then raced away to coolly finish in the 87th minute as United matched PSV's 3-1 victory of last month.

No goals in Turkey as security the key

Besiktas	0
Leeds	0

Besiktas drew 0-0 with Leeds United in a Group H Champions League match played under tight security.

The result left the positions in the group unchanged with Leeds top on seven points, followed by AC Milan, who drew 3-3 with Barcelona, also on seven. Besiktas and Barca both have four points with two matches left to play.

Both sides played cautiously but Besiktas, missing suspended striker Pascal Nouma, squandered more clear-cut scoring chances.

Attacking midfielder Nihat Kahveci and striker Ahmet Dursun both failed to convert golden scoring opportunities for the Turkish side, which Leeds effectively bottled up to notch another point after humiliating Besiktas 6-0 last month.

Australian Mark Viduka also squandered a good chance to score for Leeds with only goalkeeper Ike Shorunmuc to beat, but instead fired straight into his arms.

More than 100 Leeds fans came to the stadium by boat and were to board a plane for Britain after the match, surrounded by a heavy police escort to prevent a repeat of violence earlier this year between English and Turkish fans that left two Leeds supporters dead.

Leeds United striker Michael Bridges gets in a shot while challenged by Havutchu Tayfur of Besiktas.

Anderlecht get revenge

Anderlecht	4
Dynamo Kiev	2

Anderlecht erased the memories of their 4-0 humiliation by Dynamo Kiev three weeks ago, crushing the Ukrainians 4-2 in their Champions League Group G clash last week.

One down inside a minute after some sloppy defending gifted Kiev an easy goal from a corner which Kakha Kaladze converted, the Belgians stormed back with four goals in the first half in a performance that surprised even their most optimistic fans.

An own goal by Vladyslav Vaschuk after 10 minutes, Tomasz Radzinski (37 and 41) and Alin Stoica (45) brought Anderlecht their tallies while Kiev's second was an 88th minute consolation from Valentin Bialkevich.

Key to the Brussels side's win was an impressive exhibition of pace and clinical finishing from Canadian striker Tomasz Radzinski and an assured performance in midfield from much-maligned 20-year-old Romanian Alin Stoica.

Kiev, who travelled to Brussels confident of victory, had careless defending to blame for the margin of their defeat, but also had trouble with Anderlecht's pace and the strength of Czech centre forward Jan Koller.

The game petered out in the second half and Kiev gained a late consolation when Valiantsin Bialkevich was left unmarked on the edge of the box to fire in a well-placed shot.

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WORLD SERIE A

BARI 0 ATALANTA 2

Newly-promoted Atalanta won their second consecutive away match thanks to a header by Fausto Rossini in the 52nd minute and a strike by Nicola Ventola four minutes later.

Atalanta goalkeeper Davide Pignato saved two second-half penalties from Bari's Swedish midfielder Daniel Andersson.

BRESCIA 1 FIORENTINA 1

A perfect through ball by Brescia defender Aimo Diana enabled forward Dario Hubner to open the scoring for the home side before Brazilian striker Leandro equalised in the 67th minute to give Fiorentina a point.

AC MILAN 2 JUVENTUS 2

Substitute Antonio Conte scored an injury time equaliser as Juve came back from 2-0 down.

Massimo Ambrosini and Andriy Shevcehnko put Milan in the driving seat before David Trezeguet started the Juventus fightback.

NAPOLI 1 BOLOGNA 5

Napoli's crushing defeat leaves them bottom of Serie A without a point. Cameroon international Pierre Wome opened the scoring before Napoli defender Francesco Baldini put through his own net.

Giuseppe Signori struck twice for Bologna either side of a Francesco Moriero consolation goal for Napoli. Argentine striker Julio Cruz closed out the scoring with a header in injury time.

Lazio's Sinisa Mihajlovic kicks the ball as Verona's Alberto Gilardino puts in a tackle during their match at the Verona Bentegodi Stadium.

PERUGIA 3 PARMA 1

Parma were 3-0 down after just 20 minutes and their late strike from Frenchman Johan Micoud came as scant consolation for a poor performance.

Young striker Cristian Bucchi put the home side in front with a close-range header before Marco Materazzi and Giovanni Tedesco scored with volleys from inside the box.

REGGINA 0 LECCE 1

A Cristiano Lucarelli penalty in the 35th minute gave Lecce their first win of the season.

The home side hit the post through Andrea Zanchetta.

AS ROMA 3 VICENZA 1

Roma went top with their third straight win against newly-promoted Vicenza. Francesco Totti, Vincenzo Montella and Gabriel Batistuta scored a goal each to ensure Vicenza remain pointless.

Roma have scored more goals than any other side and boast two of the league top scorers.

VERONA 2 LAZIO 0

Verona stretched their unbeaten home run to 18 matches with a convincing victory over the champions.

An own goal from Lazio defender Giuseppe Favalli and a strike on the break from Romanian forward Adrian Mutu sealed the win. Lazio's Sinisa Mihajlovic missed a penalty in injury time.

UDINESE 3 INTER MILAN 0

Inter's second defeat of the season and their first under new coach Marco Tardelli.

Italy midfielder Stefano Fiore opened the scoring from the penalty spot, Roberto Muzzi scored his third of the season and Vicenzo Iaquinta scored from a second penalty in injury time.

Udinese's Stephen Appiah gets ahead of Inter Milan forward Ivan Zamorano. Udinese ran out comfortable 3-0 winners.

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

Juventus certainly got out of jail this weekend against AC Milan after being behind by two goals. The draw keeps them unbeaten while AC Milan have had a mixed bag of results in their first three games: 1 win, 1 draw and 1 loss.

The disappointing thing about this game was the behaviour of some fans. Unfortunately, Italian soccer has experienced some really ugly incidents in recent years and it is about time that these so-called fans stayed away from the game.

Interesting to see Marco Tardelli, the new coach of Inter having been appointed only two weeks ago, after their 3-0 loss to Udinese away from home.

Tardelli was less than happy and who could blame him? Only a few weeks ago he was here in Australia as coach of the Italian Olympic team and he also had the role of Under 21 National coach.

Tardelli, at the helm of his very first Serie A team, may be wondering why he ever left the secure job with the Italian Federation (FIGC) to join Inter.

Let's remember that Tardelli is the 12th coach at Inter in the last nine years!

As Besiktas of Istanbul prepare to take on AC Milan in the next round of the Champions League, it may be worth remembering who is in charge there these days.

Nevio Scala is the coach and he is surely the forgotten man of Italian soccer. For many in Italy Scala is 'yesterday's coach' but his time there was, on the whole, most positive.

Scala was the inaugural coach of Parma in the Serie A in 1990 and he remained there for five seasons. While Parma did not win the Scudetto under Scala, his successors, Carlo Ancelotti and Alberto Malesani, have done no better.

Parma are always up there with the best but their team never seems to be able to go that one extra step.

Scala also had stints with Perugia and Borussia Dortmund in Germany and neither was too successful. However, at Besiktas, Scala has found himself up there competing with the big boys again and his next European assignment is at the San Siro against AC Milan.

For Scala it is a wonderful chance to prove that he is still a fine coach to his critics in Italy who may have written him off. Not that Scala really needs to prove anything because judging by the results of Besiktas in Europe, he has set the record straight.

Roma surely have the best striking power of any Italian team - Gabriel Batistuta, Vincenzo Montella, Marco Delvecchio and Francesco Totti. All internationals with very sound pedigree and the hardest thing for coach, Fabio Capello, will be managing them all and keeping everyone happy.

Before the season, Montella was widely reported to be unhappy with the signing of Batistuta as he was a direct competitor for his place in the starting line-up.

Totti has been playing a more creative role as playmaker just behind the front line but that still leaves three world class strikers.

Italy's next major assignment is in Romania next year in March. It is practically five months of hibernation for the national team. So what will happen in the meantime?

Christian Vieri will surely return to Inter and may well consolidate his place at club level. If his form warrants it, then surely he is a walk up start in the national side.

Coach Giovanni Trapattoni has promised to go and watch some of the smaller Italian teams in the hope of discovering the next Stefano Fiore.

Fiore is the classy Udinese midfielder who starred for Italy in Euro 2000 and has consolidated his place in the national team. Often players from clubs such as Udinese get over-looked because all the major teams get all the focus. However, these days with the top sides invaded by foreigners, often the Italian players get very limited opportunities.

It is by playing for a club such as Udinese that you may get noticed - who would ever have thought so?

WORLD PREMIER LEAGUE

ASTON VILLA 0 SUNDERLAND 0

With the new England manager being announced in London during the match it seemed as if the attention of both sets of players was also elsewhere in a disappointing game.

The nearest either side came to a goal was when Sunderland striker Kevin Phillips hit the bar in the second half.

BRADFORD 0 IPSWICH 2

Dan Petrescu's own goal after 34 minutes was a rare moment of excitement in a poor game and Jamie Clapham made sure of the points a minute from time.

CHARLTON 1 MIDDLESBROUGH 0

Swede Mathias Svensson earned Charlton the points when he scored with his first touch of the season in the 68th minute as the Londoners finally got the better of a tough-tackling Middlesbrough side.

Middlesbrough's new eight million pounds ($20m million) signing Ugo Ehiogu limped off after just eight minutes of his debut.

CHELSEA 6 COVENTRY 1

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink doubled his season's tally with four goals to bring the smiles back to Chelsea.

The game was effectively decided in the 24th minute when Coventry keeper Chris Kirkland was sent off for bringing down Hasselbaink in the box. The Dutchman converted the penalty and then curled in a brilliant second shortly before halftime.

Gianfranco Zola made it 3-0 three minutes after the break and Hasselbaink completed his hat-trick soon after before adding a fourth in the 58th minute.

Tore Andre Flo headed Chelsea's sixth in the 68th minute and Cedric Roussel's late effort could not prevent Coventry's worst ever defeat at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea's Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink is swamped by his teammates after scoring the first of his four goals against Coventry City at Stamford Bridge.

LIVERPOOL 1 LEICESTER 0

Former England keeper Tim Flowers was at his best to keep Liverpool at bay in a fierce first half assault that also saw Emile Heskey hit a post.

But Heskey ended his former club's unbeaten away record when he beat Flowers to a long ball to touch in a 69th minute winner, the first away goal Leicester have conceded all season.

MAN UNITED 3 LEEDS 0

The champions were always in charge against a Leeds team hard-hit by injuries.

Striker Dwight Yorke, who scored his first goal of the season in the Champions League last week, got his second with a 40th minute header to get things moving.

A deflected David Beckham free-kick five minutes after halftime and a late own goal by Matthew Jones completed the easy win.

NEWCASTLE 0 EVERTON 1

Gary Naysmith capped his debut for Everton by providing the cross for Kevin Campbell to score the only goal 10 minutes from time.

It was the first time Everton had kept a clean sheet all season.

TOTTENHAM 3 DERBY 1

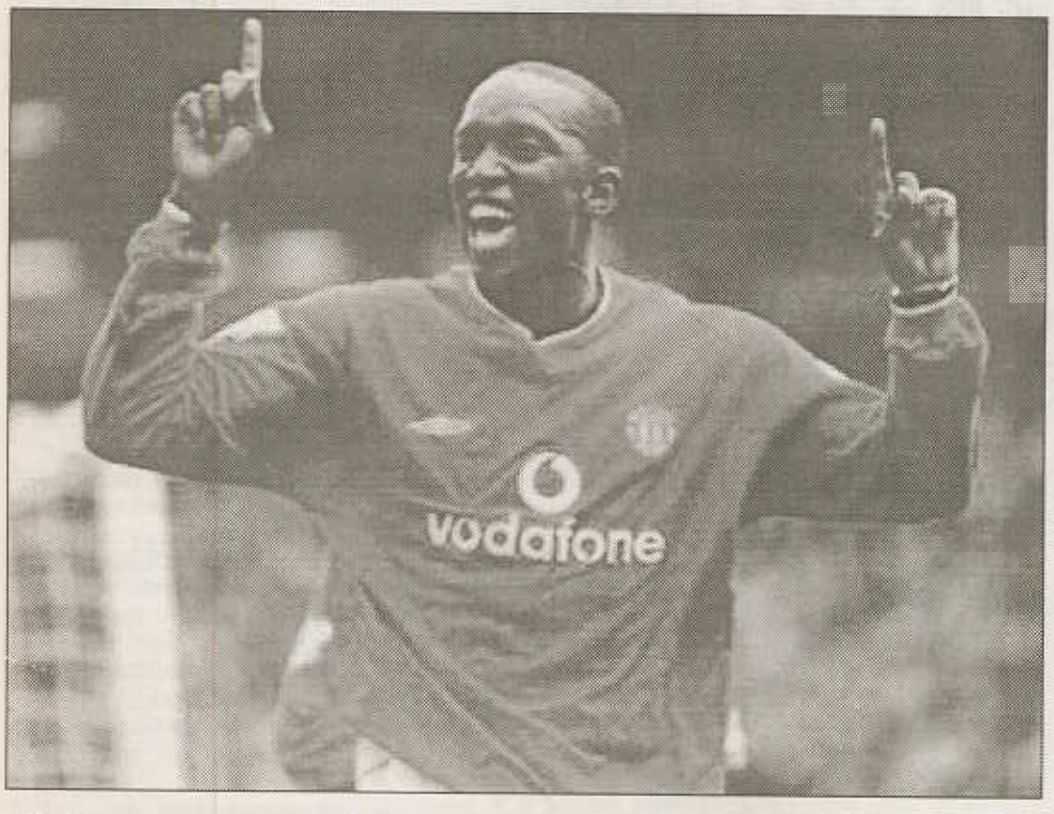
Oyvind Leonhardson fired Spurs ahead from 20 metres in the fourth minute but Chris Riggott briefly raised Derby hopes with an equaliser in the 39th minute.

Stephen Carr restored Tottenham's lead with a fierce drive just before halftime and Leonhardson tapped in the third early in the second half to leave Derby firmly rooted at the foot of the table.

WEST HAM 1 ARSENAL 2

West Ham paid a heavy price for some awful early defending as Robert Pires cashed in on a dire Trevor Sinclair backpass to fire Arsenal ahead in the 12th minute and Rio Ferdinand then headed a cross into his own net in the 21st.

West Ham pulled one back when everybody missed Stuart Pearce's low free kick and the ball skidded in after 56 minutes but despite a strong home rally Arsenal held out and also had a goal disallowed.



Manchester United striker Dwight Yorke celebrates after opening the scoring against Leeds United at Old Trafford. The home side ran out 3-0 winners.

MURPHY'S LAW

By Julian Murphy

Ain't it great in football how the pendulum swings. One season your team is taking points from the big guns but within a few months they are struggling to not slip down divisions. You don't get this in every sport.

You may be in the cellar in rugby league, AFL or when you play soccer but that's as low as you go. Just look at the Canberra Cosmos SC of late, the Wests rugby league club in the 1980's and the St Kilda AFL side for most of their miserable 100 year existence. They might win one game out of every 10 but they'll get another crack the following year.

There is a lot more at stake in the English football leagues. It's always hard to predict where you will be in a few years. That is unless you are Manchester United.

The 2000-01 Premier League season is now 10 games old and some managers must be starting to feel a little paranoid about their immediate future. Every hushed conversation in the hallways and on the training ground at their club will be treated with increasing suspicion.

It's fun to see how different gaffer's handle the pressure from both the fans and the media. It can be a real test of their mettle. Continuing poor performances by their struggling charges can lead to irrational behaviour on the sidelines and stupid post game comments.

Witness Danny Wilson's words last season as his Sheffield Wednesday headed towards Division One. The Owls couldn't string two passes together let alone two wins but with about eight games to go, Wilson said 'I don't think we'll lose another game this season' You WHAT?! Nice guy that he is, Wilson had to get the boot for that silly statement.

Gianluca Vialli has already been sent packing from West London and you would have to think, with over a quarter of the season gone, the time is about due for a few more Premier League heads to roll. So who's it going to be?

Things are beginning to look a bit grim for Derby County's Jim Smith. His lads have lost their last three games by an aggregate score of 11-2 and are the only winless club in England. Things were OK at the start of the season when they drew four of their first five games and were managing to knock in a few goals.

Unfortunately the defence has been shocking from the word go. No attack can score three to five goals regularly to cover for their panicky pals at the back.

No matter how popular Smith is in Derby or how much he has done for the club in recent years, he is still at risk. The suit wearers at Pride Park won't be happy if the new stadium they have spent a stack on is hosting Gillingham and not the Gunners.

Another manager with short odds will be Chris Hutchings of Bradford City. A newcomer to Premier League management, Hutchings has considerably less to work with than Smith, but will probably get less time. Some good off-season buys and an early win over Chelsea gave Bantam fans hope that they could at least repeat last year's remarkable effort. However, injuries have exposed a lack of depth and God only knows what will happen if they lose young keeper Matt Clarke.

West Ham's Harry Redknapp was still rather bubbly a few weeks ago after his talented side had been playing well without any luck against some good teams.

The leaking of a late soft goal against Bradford City and a draw with Ipswich will have left his face a little redder. With a similar status to that of Smith at Derby, Redknapp still needs a couple of wins - quickly.

Many Middlesbrough fans want to see the back of Bryan Robson A.S.A.P. Their sentiments are understandable as they have endured a few false dawns since Robson's arrival. Money continues to be splashed out at the Riverside on players like Boksic, Karembeu and now Ehiougu and everyone remembers what happened in the year of Ravanelli and Juninho. My money is on Robbo.

LUXEMBURGO VOWS TO CLEAR HIS NAMES

Sacked Brazil coach Wanderley Luxemburgo said last week that he did not consider himself a failure and promised to clear his name.

The coach, dismissed last month after poor performances with both Brazil's senior and Olympic teams, said he was prepared to co-operate with a Congressional inquiry which plans to investigate the finances of Brazilian soccer.

Luxemburgo, who has vigorously denied allegations by a former business associate that he took commissions on the transfer of players, said that he would not be easy meat for the inquiry.

"I will not be the inquiry's cow for the piranhas," he told the *Jornal da Tarde* newspaper, using a local expression.

Luxemburgo gave his interview to the Sao Paulo-based daily after emerging from a two-week period of self-imposed exile on a farm in the vast, remote centre-west of the country.

He said he needed the isolation to contemplate everything that had happened to him in the last few months.

"I have done nothing which makes me ashamed," he said.

"Nobody has wanted to listen to me, just to attack me.

Everything that happened to me has been unfair.

"I did not fail with the Brazil team. We won the Copa America (in Paraguay last year) unbeaten."

During the latter part of his reign, which ended with the Olympic team's golden goal defeat against nine-man Cameroon in Australia last month, Luxemburgo was vilified in Brazil.

Wanderley Luxemburgo: Does not consider himself a failure and vowing to clear his name.

The media criticised everything from results — including World Cup qualifying defeats to Paraguay and Chile at senior level — to the expensive suits he wore on the touchline and his failure to pick veteran striker Romario.

Luxemburgo repeated his admission that he was being investigated over his tax declarations and said: "I will pay what I owe. A lot of people owe money to the Inland Revenue. I am not the only one."

He concluded the interview by saying: "I was sacked for a series of reasons. I did not make any concessions. Many people were upset by this. But I'm young. Life goes on.

"At the start, they said I gave credit to my profession by being well-dressed when I worked. They said it was modern and I was an example … but at the end it went against me.

"I'm not going to change. I'm a man of conviction. I will work the same way: in a jacket and tie and a lot of pride. I'm ready to face the inquiry and go back to working as a coach."

Leao takes over Brazilian job

Former international goalkeeper Emerson Leao was the surprise choice to take over as the new coach of the Brazilian national team last week.

Leao, who played for Brazil in the 1974 and 1978 World Cups, replaces Wanderley Luxemburgo, who was sacked in September after a series of poor performances with both the senior and Olympic teams.

Known for having an explosive temperament which has led to clashes with players, officials and journalists, Leao takes over at a delicate time for Brazilian football.

The national team, once considered invincible in South America, have recently lost World Cup qualifiers to Chile and Paraguay while the under-23 Olympic team was knocked out in the quarter-finals by nine-man Cameroon in Sydney.

The domestic game, meanwhile, is in turmoil.

The Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) failed to organise this year's Brazilian championship and this week a Congressional inquiry was set in motion to investigate the contract between the CBF and sportswear giants Nike who sponsor the national team.

The national team's prestige has fallen so much that Leao was only chosen after Luis Felipe Scolari turned the job down.

Carlos Alberto Parreira and Oswaldo de Oliveira were also reported to have said no.

"I'm not entirely at ease on my first day," said the 51-year-old Leao, who was chosen by new technical co-ordinator Antonio Lopes, as he faced a typically chaotic media conference.

Emerson Leao: Former Brazilian keeper looking to save Brazil from further blushes.

Leao seemed aware that his new job carries the aspirations of 160 million football-mad Brazilians who expect the four-times world champions to win every match and tournament they play, preferably with style.

"To be coach of the Brazilian team can be very heavy going but it can also be gratifying when things go well," Leao said.

"My family is as happy as they are worried. Some people have said that the responsibility of coaching Brazil is as great as being president of the republic.

"I don't think like that. I don't think the two can ever be compared. My responsibility is big but different."

Leao said his playing career lasted for 24 years, with Palmeiras and Vasco da Gama among the clubs he played for, and he became a coach in 1987.

He has coached several of Brazil's best-known clubs including Santos, Atletico Mineiro, Gremio and Internacional. He is currently in charge of Sport Recife.

He is known for getting good results but his teams have often been criticised for employing a rough, physical style.

"He knows how to prepare a team technically and tactically," said Antonio Lopes, himself appointed to the newly-created post of technical co-ordinator at the weekend.

"He is very competent without any doubt. He has a good CV and he has international experience as a player. For these reasons he has become coach of the Brazilian national team."

Leao's first game in charge will be the World Cup qualifier at home to Colombia in November.

VERON MAY FACE TRIAL OVER CITIZENSHIP

A Rome investigating magistrate said last week there were grounds to prosecute Lazio's Argentine midfielder Juan Veron over the way he gained his Italian citizenship.

Silverio Piro, who has been investigating Veron since April, said the player, his agent Gustavo Mascardi, Lazio president Sergio Cragnotti and the club's sporting director Felice Pulici should all stand trial on charges of falsifying documents.

The case now passes to a judge who will decide whether to heed Piro's recommendation or to dismiss the case.

Veron became a naturalised Italian citizen last year on the basis of a long-dead relative who was born in southern Italy in 1870 and emigrated to Argentina at the turn of last century.

Juan Veron: The Argentine may be prosecuted over the way he gained Italian citizenship.

Piro has been investigating claims that the player's paperwork was bogus and the two men were not in fact related.

Veron's citizenship allowed Lazio to field him as an EU citizen in their successful campaign for the Italian league and cup double last season. That left them free to field three of their four non-EU players alongside him.

Lazio brushed off the decision, saying it was expected.

"I'm sure everything will be cleared up and Lazio will emerge unscathed from this case," a club spokesman said.

ALBERT ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Philippe Albert: Belgian hero who won 41 international caps.

Former Belgian international defender Philippe Albert has retired from competitive football after failing to recover from a knee injury.

Albert injured his right knee in a training accident in February and was only given a 50 percent chance at the time of making a comeback.

"Today, the knee says stop. The cartilage is completely destroyed and I don't want to take the slightest risk," Albert told *Foot* magazine.

Albert made the decision after undergoing his seventh operation on the same knee.

The classy defender was a favourite at Newcastle United during the exciting reign of Kevin Keegan in the late 1990s, but returned to play for Charleroi after five seasons in England.

He won the Belgian championship with Anderlecht, was named Belgium's player of the year and won 41 international caps.

INQUIRY TO QUESTION RONALDO OVER ILLNESS

A Brazilian Congressional inquiry plans to question striker Ronaldo over the 1998 World Cup final, when he played despite suffering a convulsion hours before, an official said last week.

Full-back Roberto Carlos, his room-mate during the 1998 World Cup, is also likely to be summoned along with Mario Zagallo and Lidio Toledo, who were coach and team doctor at the time, the official added.

The questioning will form part of an investigation into the finances of Brazilian soccer, which is in deep crisis.

Brazil, looking listless and apathetic, were easily beaten 3-0 by France in a one-sided World Cup final they had started as favourites.

Many people were baffled at the time as to why Ronaldo, who played the entire 90 minutes despite looking dazed, was fielded in the first place and have not been convinced by the subsequent official explanations.

Ronaldo: Inquiry into his illness leading into the 1998 World Cup final.

Brazilian team officials have maintained that Ronaldo suffered a convulsion at the team hotel only a few hours before and was rushed to hospital. After thorough medical investigations, he was passed fit to play by team doctors and put in the team by coach Zagallo on the insistence of the player himself.

Since then, numerous theories have circulated alongside the official one as to what happened.

These include one that Brazil were simply outwitted tactically and were fishing for excuses.

The inquiry is due to start next week and plans to focus on the relationship between sportswear giants Nike, who sponsor the national team, and the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF).

Roberto Carlos: World Cup roommate of Ronaldo also to be questioned.

Nike also sponsor several of Brazil's leading players including Ronaldo, who is currently recovering from a long-term knee operation.

The Congress official, speaking by telephone from Brasilia, said the inquiry usually "invited" people to give evidence.

"But if it becomes very important, we can force them to take part by law," said the official, a spokesman for Congressman Silvio Torres — one of the inquiry's members.

The inquiry's findings could result in prosecutions, he said.

CBF president Ricardo Teixeira, former Brazil coach Wanderley Luxemburgo and Pele could also be invited to answer questions.

MIHAJLOVIC ADMITS INSULTING VIEIRA

Lazio's Yugoslav defender Sinisa Mihajlovic admitted last week he insulted Arsenal's black midfielder Partick Vieira but claimed he was provoked and denied he was a racist.

"Yes, it's true, I said 'black shit' but he provoked me by saying 'gypsy shit'," Mihajlovic told a news conference following the stormy Champions League match in Rome which ended in a 1-1 draw.

"I called him black but I might just as well have called him French," he said. "If I'm a racist then so is he for calling me a gypsy.

"I don't have anything against blacks. I didn't want to insult him because of the colour of his skin just as I'm sure he didn't want to insult me by calling me gypsy.

"These are things that happen on the pitch...they finish when the match finishes, at least for me."

Mihajlovic denied he had called Vieira "a monkey", as the Arsenal player reportedly claimed in a British media interview.

European soccer's governing body UEFA said it had launched an inquiry into the Group B match, in which Arsenal's black players Vieira, Sylvain Wiltord, Nwankwo Kanu and Thierry Henry were booed by Lazio fans each time they touched the ball.

Sinisa Mihajlovic: The Yugoslav says he was provoked into insulting the Frenchman.

UEFA was also expected to investigate an incident early in the second half in which Arsenal's Gilles Grimandi appeared to punch Lazio's Diego Simeone.

The Argentine midfielder needed four stitches to a cut over his left eye and ended the match with his head heavily bandaged.

Simeone squared up to Grimandi as the teams left the pitch and Mihajlovic was one of several Lazio players involved in scuffles with opponents as they headed for the changing rooms.

Lazio have a notorious reputation in Italy for racism on the terraces and are fined by the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) on an almost weekly basis for the behaviour of their fans.

The club has made numerous appeals for an end to racist chants and offensive banners at the Olympic Stadium.

The FIGC condemned the behaviour of Lazio fans as "immoral" and said it was working with the club to stamp out racism.

BERTI CONSIDERS ENGLAND JOB

Former Germany coach Berti Vogts says he would consider taking the England manager's job if it was offered to him, the *Daily Mirror* reported last week.

"If the F.A. came to me about the England job it would be a great honour and I would think hard about it," the newspaper quoted Vogts as saying.

"But it is up to the F.A. to decide who they want. England is one of the great jobs in football and there are coaches all over the world now who would love to take up the challenge."

The idea of Vogts, who led Germany to their European Championship triumph in 1996, becoming England's first foreign coach would surprise many fans who see the Germans as England's fiercest soccer rivals.

Berti Vogts: Would consider England job if offered to him.

But the F.A. have indicated that nationality is not an issue as they look to replace Kevin Keegan, who quit 10 days ago after a World Cup qualifying defeat by Germany Wembley.

Former England coach Terry Venables, whose side were beaten by Vogts's Germany in the Euro 96 semi-finals, is the bookmakers' favourite to replace Keegan.

PARC DES PRINCES FACING STAND CLOSURE

Paris St Germain said last week they were prepared to close down a stand reserved for visiting supporters after a Marseille fan was seriously injured at the end of a first division clash last week.

Geoffroy Dilly, 18, was taken to hospital after being hit by a seat thrown from another stand at the Parc des Princes stadium.

Hospital sources said his condition was serious but stable.

PSG won the match 2-0.

"We are currently studying various solutions and if need be, we will empty the stand," said PSG security chief Eric Glain.

"The offenders probably acted when a steward was not looking or they took advantage of the rush at the end of the match," he said.

Parc des Princes: Section of the Paris Stadium to be closed.

WORLD

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

GROUP A

Spartak Moscow	2	Bayer Leverkusen	0
Sporting	2	Real Madrid	2
Real Madrid	1	Spartak Moscow	0
Bayer Leverkusen	3	Sporting	2
Bayer Leverkusen	2	Real Madrid	3
Spartak Moscow	3	Sporting	1
Real Madrid Guti 3, 65, Helguera 24, Raul 75, Figo 88pen	5	Bayer Leverkusen Brdaric 19, Kirsten 55, Rink 78	3
Sporting Lisbon	0	Spartak Moscow Dimas 16og, Egor Titov 52, 67	3

Table

Real Madrid	4	3	1	0	11	7	10
Spartak Moscow	4	3	0	1	8	2	9
Bayer Leverkusen	4	1	0	3	8	12	3
Sporting Lisbon	4	0	1	3	5	11	1

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Wednesday, October 25
Bayer Leverkusen v Spartak Moscow
Real Madrid v Sporting Lisbon
Tuesday, November 7
Spartak Moscow v Real Madrid
Sporting Lisbon v Bayer Leverkusen

GROUP B

Sparta Prague	0	Arsenal	1
Shakhtar Donetsk	0	Lazio	3
Arsenal	3	Shakhtar Donetsk	2
Lazio	3	Sparta Prague	0
Arsenal	2	Lazio	0
Sparta Prague	3	Shakhtar Donetsk	2
Lazio Nedved 24	1	Arsenal Pires 88	1
Shakhtar Donetsk Gleveskas 35, Zubov 87pen	2	Spartak Prague Jarosik 16	1

Table

Arsenal	4	3	1	0	7	3	10
Lazio	4	2	1	1	7	3	7
Shakhtar Donetsk	4	1	0	3	6	10	3
Sparta Prague	4	1	0	3	4	8	3

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Wednesday, October 25
Arsenal v Sparta Prague
Lazio v Shakhtar Donetsk

Tuesday, November 7
Sparta Prague v Lazio
Shakhtar Donetsk v Arsenal

GROUP C

Valencia	2	Olympiakos	1
Olympique Lyon	3	Heerenveen	1
Heerenveen	0	Valencia	1
Olympiakos	2	Olympique Lyon	1
Olympiakos	2	Heerenveen	0
Valencia	1	Olympique Lyon	0
Heerenveen Jensen 82	1	Olympiakos	0
Olympique Lyon Marlet 90	1	Valencia Sanchez 45, Baraja 85	2

Table

Valencia	4	4	0	0	6	2	12
Olympiakos	4	2	0	2	5	4	6
Olympique Lyon	4	1	0	3	5	6	3
Heerenveen	4	1	0	3	2	6	3

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Wednesday, October 25
Olympiakos v Valencia
Heerenveen v Olympique Lyon

Tuesday, November 7
Valencia v Heerenveen
Olympique Lyon v Olympiakos

GROUP D

Galatasaray	3	Monaco	2
Rangers	5	Sturm Graz	0
Sturm Graz	3	Galatasaray	0
Monaco	0	Rangers	1
Monaco	5	Sturm Graz	0
Galatasaray	3	Rangers	2
Rangers	0	Galatasaray	0
Sturm Graz Schopp 40, 88	2	Monaco	0

Table

Galatasaray	4	2	1	1	6	7	7
Rangers	4	2	1	1	8	3	7
Sturm Graz	4	2	0	2	5	10	6
Monaco	4	1	0	3	7	6	3

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Wednesday, October 25
Monaco v Galatasaray
Sturm Graz v Rangers

Tuesday, November 7
Galatasaray v Sturm Graz
Rangers v Monaco

GROUP E

Hamburg SV	4	Juventus	4
Panathinaikos	1	Deportivo Coruna	1
Juventus	2	Panathinaikos	1
Deportivo Coruna	2	Hamburg SV	1
Juventus	0	Deportivo Coruna	0
Hamburg SV	0	Panathinaikos	1
Deportivo Coruna Victor 12	1	Juventus F.Inzaghi 10	1
Panathinaikos	0	Hamburg SV	0

Table

Juventus	4	1	3	0	7	6	6
Deportivo Coruna	4	1	3	0	4	3	6
Panathinaikos	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
Hamburg SV	4	0	2	2	5	7	2

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Tuesday, October 24
Juventus v Hamburg SV
Deportivo Coruna v Panathinaikos

Wednesday, November 8
Hamburg SV v Deportivo Coruna
Panathinaikos v Juventus

GROUP F

Rosenborg	3	Paris St Germain	1
Helsingborg	1	Bayern Munich	3
Bayern Munich	3	Rosenborg	1
Paris St Germain	4	Helsingborg	1
Paris St Germanin	1	Bayern Munich	0
R'borg Trondheim	6	Helsingborg	1
Bayern Munich Salhamidzic 4	2	Paris St Germain Sergio 89	0
Helsingborg Jansson 32	2	R'borg Trondheim Santos 77	0

Table

Bayern Munich	4	3	0	1	8	3	9
Rosenborg	4	2	0	2	10	7	6
Paris St Germain	4	2	0	2	6	6	6
Helsingborg	4	1	0	3	5	13	3

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Tuesday, October 24
Paris St Germain v Rosenborg Trondheim
Bayern Munich v Helsingborg

Wednesday, November 8
Rosenborg Trondheim v Bayern Munich
Helsingborg v Paris St Germain

GROUP G

PSV Eindhoven	2	Dynamo Kiev	1
Manchester United	5	Anderlecht	1
Anderlecht	1	PSV Eindhoven	0
Dynamo Kiev	0	Manchester Utd	0
Dynamo Kiev	4	Anderlecht	0
PSV Eindhoven	3	Manchester Utd	1
Anderlecht Vaschuk 10og, Radzinski 37, 41, Alin Stoica 45	4	Dynamo Kiev Kaladze 1, Bialkevich 88	2
Manchester United Sheringham 8 Scholes 82, Yorke 87	3	PSV Eindhoven Van Bommel 75	1

Table

Manchester United	4	2	1	1	9	5	7
Anderlecht	4	2	0	2	6	11	6
PSV Eindhoven	4	2	0	2	6	6	6
Dynamo Kiev	4	1	1	2	7	6	4

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Tuesday, October 24
Dynamo Kiev v PSV Eindhoven
Anderlecht v Manchester United

Wednesday, November 8
PSV Eindhoven v Anderlecht
Manchester United v Dynamo Kiev

GROUP H

Barcelona	4	Leeds United	0
AC Milan	4	Besiktas	1
Besiktas	3	Barcelona	0
Leeds United	1	AC Milan	0
Leeds United	6	Besiktas	0
Barcelona	0	AC Milan	2
Besiktas	0	Leeds United	0
AC Milan Albertini 25, 39, Jose Mari 45	3	Barcelona Rivaldo 19, 43, 68	3

Table

Leeds United	4	2	1	1	7	4	7
AC Milan	4	2	1	1	9	5	7
Besiktas	4	1	1	2	4	10	4
Barcelona	4	1	1	2	7	8	4

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Tuesday, October 24
Leeds United v Barcelona
Besiktas v AC Milan

Wednesday, November 8
Barcelona v Besiktas
AC Milan v Leeds United

SECOND ROUND

Four Groups of Four

QUARTER-FINAL

First Leg — April 3/4
Second Leg — April 17/18

SEMI-FINAL

First Leg — May 1/2
Second Leg — May 8/9

FINAL

Wednesday, May 23
In Milan

WORLD

FIFA

World Rankings

(Valid until November 15)

FIFA
founded 1904

1	Brazil	71=	Estonia	140	Rwanda
2	France	71=	Lithuania	141	Tanzania
3	Argentina	73	Burkina Faso	142	Liechtenstein
4	Czech Republic	74	Kuwait	143	Ethiopia
5	Spain	75	Cuba	144	Andorra
6	Italy	76	Guinea	145=	Benin
7	Portugal	77	China PR	145=	Korea DPR
8	Germany	78	Bosnia-Herzegovina	145=	St Kitts & Nevis
9	Netherlands	79	Togo	148	Antigua and Barbuda
10	Yugoslavia	80	Algeria	149	Bangladesh
11	Mexico	81	Haiti	150	Sri Lanka
12	Norway	82	FYR Macedonia	151	Botswana
13	Romania	83	Namibia	152	Bermuda
14	Paraguay	84	Gabon	153	Maldives
15	England	85	Senegal	154	Gambia
16	Colombia	86	El Salvador	155	Dominican Rep
17	Croatia	87	Armenia	156	Cape Verde Is
18	United States	88	Congo	157	Mauritania
19	Chile	89=	Iraq	158	Yemen
20	Denmark	89=	Latvia	159	Dominica
21	Sweden	91	Northern Ireland	160	Chinese Taipei
22	South Africa	92	New Zealand	161	Cayman Islands
23=	Belgium	93	Mali	162	Chad
23=	Russia	94=	Albania	163	Eritrea
25	Scotland	94=	Liberia	164	Surinam
26=	Slovakia	96	Qatar	165	Laos
26=	Tunisia	97	Moldova	166	Nepal
28	Morocco	98	Syria	167	San Marino
29	Trinidad & Tobago	99	Barbados	168	Vanuatu
30	Turkey	100	Uganda	169	Palestine
31	Egypt	101	Jordan	170	Cook Islands
32=	Greece	102	Belarus	171	British Virgin Is.
32=	Slovenia	103	Indonesia	172	Samoa
34	Uruguay	104	Kenya	173=	Kyrgyzstan
35	Cameroon	105	Venezuela	173=	Netherlands Antilles
36	Poland	106	Malaysia	175	Guinea-Bissau
37	Israel	107	Singapore	176	Central African Rep.
38	Ireland Republic	108=	Mozambique	177	Niger
39	Austria	108=	Wales	178	Bahamas
40	Ukraine	110	Vietnam SR	179	Macao
41	Peru	111	Lebanon	180	Sao Tome e Principe
42	Jamaica	112	Oman	181	Cambodia
43	Iran	113	Azerbaijan	182	Guyana
44	Korea Republic	114	Malawi	183	Philippines
45	Zambia	115	Madagascar	184	Tonga
46=	Honduras	116	India	185	Aruba
46=	Saudi Arabia	117	Faroe Islands	186	Belize
48	Ghana	118	Mauritius	187	Equatorial Guinea
49	Japan	119	Kazakhstan	188	Seychelles
50	Cote d' Ivoire	119	Libya	189	Pakistan
51	Angola	121=	Malta	190	Nicaragua
52	Iceland	121=	Turkmenistan	191	PNG
53	Hungary	123	Panama	192	Djibouti
54	Costa Rica	124	Sierra Leone	193	Brunei Darussalam
55	Bulgaria	125	St Vincent/Gr	194	Puerto Rico
55	Finland	126	Hong Kong	195	Somalia
57	Nigeria	127	Myanmar	196=	US Virgin Islands
58	Ecuador	128=	St Lucia	196=	Mongolia
59	UAE	128=	Sudan	198	Anguilla
60	Guatemala	130	Burundi	199	Turks & Caicos Is
61	Switzerland	131	Tahiti	200=	Bhutan
62	Georgia	132	Solomon Islands	200=	Guam
63	Thailand	133	Bahrain	202	Montserrat
64	Canada	134	Swaziland	203	American Samoa
65	Bolivia	135	Luxemburg		
66	Uzbekistan	136=	Fiji		
67	Cyprus	136=	Lesotho		
68	Zimbabwe	138=	Grenada		
69	Congo DR	138=	Tajikistan		
70	**AUSTRALIA**				

***Note:** Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet to do not appear in the table.*

FIGO CHANGES BARCA NUMBER PLATES

Luis Figo: Forced to changed his Barcelona number plates to prevent having his car attacked by Real fans.

Real Madrid player Luis Figo has changed his car's Barcelona number plates to try and prevent the vehicle being attacked by his own club's fans, the Spanish sports daily *As* reported last week.

The Portuguese international moved from Barcelona to bitter rivals Real Madrid for a world record $96.1 million in July.

Figo angered some fans from both clubs by vowing right up until his transfer that he would not leave Barcelona.

New plates issued in Spain no longer bear the initials of the provinces in which the car was purchased.

WEAH HEADS TO MARSEILLE

Liberian striker George Weah joined Olympique Marseille last week after leaving Manchester City.

Marseille said that Weah, who passed a medical, had an option to stay a further season at the first division club.

Weah said his former English Premier League club had not respected him.

The 1995 World Footballer of the Year parted company with City earlier in the week after making nine appearances, scoring four goals but failing to establish a regular first-team place.

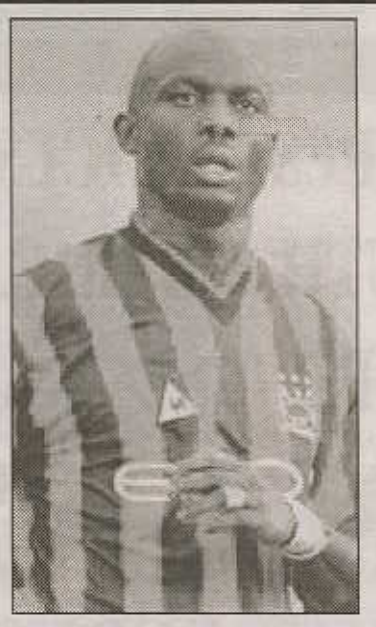
"In Manchester, I was not treated with respect. There was a lack of respect and communication," the Liberian striker told a news conference.

"The manager said something that I could not accept," he added.

"I played with a lot of great teams and a lot of great coaches," he said.

"My approach to life did not allow me to work with people who believe I only play for money," Weah said of his Manchester experience.

Weah, who launched his soccer career in a seven-year stint in France, told Marseille's Web site earlier: "Here, people have faith in me. At Manchester City that wasn't the case."



George Weah: Just nine appearances for Man City.

Weah, now 34, was discovered by Frenchman Arsene Wenger, then coach of Monaco — now at Arsenal.

He spent five years in the principality from 1988-93, before moving to Paris St Germain for two seasons and then on to AC Milan for four years before being loaned to Chelsea.

"When I was at Monaco I nearly signed for Marseille on two occasions," Weah said. "Now I've signed, it's destiny, as they say.

"I'm going to do everything I can to please the fans, and to sweat for this shirt. When people show their faith in you, you have to prove they were right to have believed in you."

Weah knows many of his new team mates already, telling the Web site he was good friends with Bruno N'Gotty — from when the two were at AC Milan — and knew several of the current squad from his years with Monaco and PSG.

A Marseille spokesman said Weah had rejected offers from Italian Serie A teams Perugia and Bologna to join them.

UMBRO CHASING ANSWERS OVER UNITED'S NIKE DEAL

Manchester United's kit maker Umbro has taken legal advice after revelations that the country's richest football club has agreed a 300 million pound ($750m) deal with U.S. sportswear giant Nike, the *Daily Telegraph* reported.

The paper said executives from the Manchester-based sportswear company were furious that news of the Nike deal had emerged when almost two years remained on an existing contract with United.

A legal expert was quoted by the Telegraph as saying there was "a substantial claim for damages" which could be in the region of tens of millions of pounds.

Umbro, which has made United's kits for the past eight years, was concerned that the news of the Nike deal could seriously harm global sales of replica shirts between now and the end of the next season, the paper said.

United admitted last month it was in talks with a leading sportswear company after the news broke that it was close to signing a 15-year contract with Nike that would earn the club 20 million pounds ($50m) a season.

The Telegraph said it was understood Nike too was alarmed to read about the deal before negotiations had been finalised.

It was believed United intended to announce the deal alongside its full year results earlier this month, but Nike deliberately stalled in order to prevent this, the paper said.

Puskas in Hospital

Ferenc Puskas, Hungary's greatest footballer, is in hospital suffering from arteriosclerosis but his life is not in danger, his manager said last week.

Puskas, 73, received a visit on Sunday from his former Real Madrid strike partner Alfredo Di Stefano.

Puskas's wife Elisabet was quoted as saying she had been overwhelmed by the visit.

"When the two old friends embraced each other it was one of the most beautiful moments of my life," she told the Hungarian newspaper *Nepszava.*

Nicknamed "The Galloping Major", Puskas was the most influential player in the wonderful Hungarian team of 1950s and was capped 84 times.

His manager Jozsef Barkovics said Puskas needed medical check-ups for the arteriosclerosis — hardening of the arteries — but his state of health was acceptable for the time being and he was well for his age.

"There's no negative sensation about him. He needs to undergo further tests. That's all I can say, with regard to his family's wishes and the obligation of professional etiquette," Barkovics said.

The Real Madrid club website reported that Di Stefano and club director Amancio Amaro, who accompanied him on the visit, were said to be concerned by Puskas's health.

The website said the visitors were reassured by the fact that the immediate needs of the former player and his family were being met without any difficulties.

Puskas began his career with Honved, which in the years following World War Two was the Hungarian army team.

Earning an enduring reputation for his deadly left foot, he won an Olympic gold medal with the national side in 1952.

Led by Puskas, Hungary recorded one of the most famous victories in soccer history in 1953 when they became the first continental team to beat England at Wembley, winning 6-3 in magnificent style.

Six months later they were even more devastating, trouncing England 7-1 in Budapest.

In 1954 Puskas suffered the biggest disappointment of his career when, after scoring Hungary's first goal in the World Cup final against West Germany, he had another effort ruled offside when he had struck what would have been the equaliser. The Germans won 3-2.

The "Golden Team" disintegrated after the 1956 uprising against communist rule in Hungary was put down by Soviet troops.

Puskas, on tour at the time with Honved, did not return home and instead joined Real Madrid, where he formed his great partnership with Di Stefano.

Puskas won three European Cups, six Spanish championships and two Spanish Cups with Real.

Ferenc Puskas: 73-year-old Hungarian in hospital suffering from arteriosclerosis.

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NEWCASTLE PICK UP PAZ

Argentine international Pablo Paz has joined Premier League Newcastle on a week's trial with a view to a 1.5 million pounds ($3.75 million) transfer, the club said last week.

The 27-year-old Tenerife defender won a silver medal as part of the Argentina squad in the 1996 Olympics and played against Croatia in the World Cup two years later.

Paz joined the Spanish First Division club in 1997 after impressing scouts while at Newell's Old Boys and Banfield in his home country.

Newcastle assistant manager Mick Wadsworth confirmed: "We're having a look a the player for a few days but our interest doesn't go any further than that at the moment."

KEEPER SCORES

Sao Paulo goalkeeper Rogerio Ceni scored from a free kick to earn his team a 1-1 draw at home to Internacional late last week.

Rogerio, who has followed in the footsteps of Paraguay's Jose Luis Chilavert by turning free kick and penalty taker, curled an unstoppable effort over the Internacional wall for the 19th goal of his career.

Rogerio is also the first choice goalkeeper for the Brazil national team but, unlike Chilavert, has never been allowed to try out his goalscoring prowess for his country.

Sao Paulo stayed second in the Joao Havelange Cup, which has replaced the Brazilian championship this year.

Real reduce debt with deal

Real Madrid secured their future over the short term last week by announcing a merchandising deal with Spanish bank Caja Madrid worth 13,000 million pesetas ($70 million) to the cash-strapped club.

The deal will see the club and Caja Madrid jointly exploit the club's internet rights, as well the image rights of the club and players, over a period of 11 years.

Real will keep 80 percent of the proceeds, with the remainder going to the bank.

Real president Florentino Perez, who announced last month that the club was more than $250 million in debt, said the proceeds from the agreement would make up the club's deficit in the budget for the 2000-01 season.

"The forecast is to settle the (entire) debt this season," said Perez, who took over from Lorenzo Sanz this summer.

"The short-term problem is now solved and we're studying the situation over the medium and long term.

"What I want is for Real Madrid to be the richest as well as the best club in the world."

Liverpool players witness shooting

Liverpool stars were giving statements to British police last week about a double shooting at a bar in the northern English city.

Six players from the Premier League club were in the Jalons bar-restaurant in a Liverpool suburb when three masked men burst in and one opened fire with a handgun, police said.

Two men, aged 30 and 45, suffered leg injuries and were taken to hospital for treatment.

Police said six Liverpool players were in the premises at the time — goalkeeper Sander Westerveld and striker Erik Meijer, who are both Dutch, Finnish defender Sami Hyypia and German midfielders Markus Babbel, Christian Ziege and Didi Hamann.

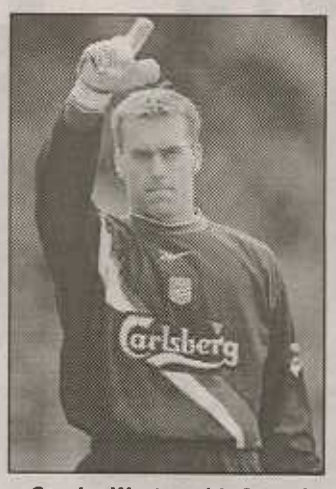
They were dining at the back of the bar after Liverpool's 4-0 victory over bottom-placed Derby County. Babbel, Hyypia, Westerveld and Ziege played in the away game.

A spokeswoman for Merseyside police said the players were expected to give statements to police.

Officers have yet to establish a motive for the incident but said it could be linked to a row outside the club earlier that evening.

Police said the attackers made their getaway in a silver-coloured Vauxhall Vectra car which was later found burned out. There was no suggestion that the Liverpool players were involved in the fracas or the later shooting.

"The group were obviously shocked by events but were thankfully all unhurt," Liverpool FC said in a statement.



Sander Westerveld: One of six Liverpool players to witness the shooting.

MARADONA TALKING OF MANAGING CLUB

Diego Maradona: Talking to cash strapped Buenos Aires team.

Argentine legend Diego Maradona, who dreams of returning to the big time in charge of a top world club, is mulling an offer to manage a struggling and cash-strapped Buenos Aires team, his agent said last week.

Maradona, who has spent most of this year in Cuba under treatment for the drug problem which blighted his brilliant playing career, has spoken by telephone several times to the owners of Club Atletico Almagro about a possible deal.

The club's president and vice-president were flying into Havana to discuss a possible contract with Maradona face-to-face, agent Guillermo Coppola said.

"In principle, he is interested," Coppola said, adding that Maradona was already working out who he would like to join him in managing the team should a deal with Almagro be worked out.

Although Almagro was a relatively humble team, Maradona was encouraged because "the owners of Almagro have had sufficient courage to trust in Diego," Coppola added.

Maradona's previous forays into management, with Argentine clubs Deportivo Mandiyu de Corrientes and Racing Club de Avellanedas, brought little success, and he would have his work cut out again with Almagro.

Although recently promoted to the Argentine First Division for the first time in more than half a century, the club from a poor Buenos Aires suburb currently lies bottom with five defeats and four draws.

With the lowest budget in the division too, it is unclear how Almagro would be able to afford Maradona.

During his time in Cuba, Maradona has spoken frequently about his desire to return to soccer on the coaching or managing side, but preferably with a top club like Spain's Real Madrid, Italy's Juventus, England's Manchester United, or Argentina's Boca Juniors.

None of the big names, however, have made serious approaches. Many think Maradona's delicate health, famously volatile temperament, and history of substance abuse, mean he is unlikely to be considered for a top post despite the great affection felt for him around the soccer world.

MAN CITY GETS DUNNE

Ireland international defender Richard Dunne has signed for Premier League Manchester City in a 3.0 million pound ($7.5m) deal.

Dunne rejoined his former manager Joe Royle by switching from Everton to Maine Road after a stormy spell at the club he signed for as a youngster.

He has had 10 months of turmoil at Goodison Park after falling out with manager Walter Smith when he failed to turn up for training following a New Year's Eve celebration. A move to Wimbledon broke down earlier this season.

Royle gave Dunne his debut at the age of 17 at Everton four years ago and was keen to sign him again.

The 21-year-old scored for Ireland in their last World Cup qualifier against Estonia, his second goal since his debut in a friendly against Greece in April.

"I'm delighted to move to Manchester City. It's hard to leave a club after five years but this was a chance for regular first team football," he said.

"It's also a chance to push forward my international career. I felt it was a good place to come having worked with the staff here when I was at Everton."

Royle recalled telling Irish manager Mick McCarthy that Dunne would one day be a centre-half for him: "At 17 he was a good footballer. Very confident on the ball and was exceptionally quick. He will do a good job for us," he said.

Richard Dunne: Joins Maine Road after five years at Everton.

TV GUIDE

 # All times are Australian Eastern Standard Summer Time

TUESDAY OCT. 24

English Premier League
Southampton v Man City
Fox Sports
1pm — 3pm

Futbol Mundial
SBS TV
4pm — 4.30pm

National Soccer League highlights
Channel Seven
12.10am — 1.10am
(Wednesday Morning)

UEFA Champions League
Leeds vs Barcelona (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
5.30am — 7.45am
(Wednesday Morning)

WEDNESDAY OCT. 25

UEFA Champions League
Juventus vs Hamburger
Optus (ESPN)
7.45am — 10am

UEFA Champions League
Besiktas vs AC Milan
Optus (ESPN)
3pm — 5pm

Soccer Central
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
7.30pm — 8.30pm

Soccer Scene
Fox Sports
8.30pm — 10pm

European Soccer Show
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
9pm — 10pm

UEFA Champions League
Real Madrid vs Sporting Lisbon
Optus (ESPN)
5.30am — 7.45am
(Thursday Morning)

THURSDAY OCT. 26

UEFA Champions League
Olympiakos vs Valencia
Optus (ESPN)
7.45am — 10am

GOL ESPN
Football Extra (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
10am — 10.30am

UEFA Champions League
Lazio vs Shakhtar Donetsk
Optus (ESPN)
3pm — 5pm

Fox Sports Gold
Euro 2000
Spain vs Yugoslavia
Fox Sports
6pm — 7pm

UEFA Champions League
Olympiakos vs Valencia
SBS TV
10.30pm — 12.30am

SATURDAY OCT.28

GOL ESPN
Football Extra
Optus (ESPN)
10am — 10.30am

Soccer Scene
Fox Sports
11.30am — 1pm

Spanish Primera Liga
Barcelona vs Real Madrid
Fox Sports
1pm — 3pm

UEFA Champions League
SBS TV
3.30pm — 4.30pm

World Soccer
SBS TV
4.30pm — 5.30pm

English Premier League Review
Fox Sports 2
5pm — 5.30pm

English Premier League Highlights
SBS TV
5.30pm — 6.30pm

English Premier League
Teams TBA (LIVE)
Fox Sports 2
12.55am — 3am
(Sunday Morning)

SUNDAY OCT. 29

Italian Serie A
SBS TV
10.30am — 11.30am

On The Ball
SBS TV
11.30am — 12.30pm

National Soccer League
South Melbourne vs Carlton
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
6.30pm — 8.30pm

English Premier League
Bradford vs Leeds (LIVE)
Fox Sports
2am — 6am
(Monday Morning)

MONDAY OCT. 30

English Premier League
Bradford vs Leeds
Fox Sports
1pm — 3pm

English Premier League Highlights
Fox Sports 2
5pm — 6pm

English Premier League
Bradford vs Leeds
Fox Sports
8.30pm — 10.30pm

National Soccer League
Wollongong vs Marconi (LIVE)
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
6.30pm — 8.30pm

WORLD

SCHMEICHEL OUT FOR A MONTH

Peter Schmeichel, Sporting Lisbon's Danish international goalkeeper, injured his knee in training last week and could be out for a month, the club said.

The former Manchester United player limped away from the training session and missed the home league clash with leaders Porto.

Club doctor Gomes Pereira told a news conference that the former Manchester United goalkeeper would have a full medical and was likely to be out of action for a month.

Sporting have dropped Czech international Pavel Horwath, who captained the side in the 3-0 home defeat by Spartak Moscow in the Champions League.

Champions last season for the first time in 18 years, Sporting are third in the table, two points behind Porto, with 16 points from seven games.

Porto let the title slip earlier this year for the first time in six seasons.

Peter Schmeichel: Set to be out for a month after a training mishap.

FERGUSON CALLS FOR HELP FROM ENGLISH FA

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson last week accused the Premier League and Football Association of failing to help English clubs succeed in Europe.

At a time when three English teams are top of their Champions League groups, Ferguson is frustrated by the refusal of England's soccer authorities to move matches before European games.

"Of course European clubs laugh at the way we have this never-ending cycle of fixtures in England," Ferguson said.

"In contrast the authorities in Holland and other countries try to help clubs playing in European competitions by allowing league postponements, something virtually impossible here because there are so few windows in our programme.

"But I don't expect to see much change in my time and we must get on with it."

Ferguson pointed to the contrast in fixtures between his side and Group G rivals PSV Eindhoven, who United beat 3-1 at Old Trafford, as an example of the problems facing English teams.

"PSV don't have a game at the weekend. We play Leeds on Saturday and then on Monday travel to Anderlecht. What does that tell you?"

PSV, however, did play in the Dutch league last Saturday before their trip to England for their encounter with United.

Alex Ferguson: Asking the FA for more assistance to help English clubs succeed in Europe.

DAUM FINISHED AFTER POSITIVE DRUG TEST

Christoph Daum's career has had its ups and downs but it reached a new low over the weekend when Germany discarded him as their next national coach following a positive drugs test.

Always elegant, his thin moustache neatly combed, the 46-year-old Daum has become one of the most popular figures in German soccer.

Daum stepped down as coach of Bayer Leverkusen last week and was dropped as the incoming coach of the national team after he failed a drug test taken in a futile bid to disprove reports that he used illegal substances. The affair dominated the country's media.

Christoph Daum: German coach no more.

The fine tactician and natural leader has sometimes been controversial. He upset some people with his unorthodox methods, based on psychology as much as on traditional training.

Now he has lost his chance of the most prestigious job in the German game after undergoing tests for four substances, among them the recreational drugs cocaine and cannabis.

Daum agreed to the tests after rumours about his personal life.

"We all expected the results to be negative," said Germany's former World Cup-winning captain and coach Franz Beckenbauer.

"Anyone who voluntarily takes a test must have a clean conscience. It is a tragedy. No one wanted this."

Daum, who has never been afraid to speak his mind in the past, kept a low profile after the announcement.

VOELLER OUT OF THE RUNING

Bayer Leverkusen has confirmed that Rudi Voeller was under contract with the club until 2003 and would not be free to stay on as the German national team's caretaker coach beyond May.

Reiner Calmund, Bayer's commercial manager, said the German soccer federation (DFB) had enough time until then to find a new coach following the termination of the DFB's agreement to hire Christoph Daum starting in mid-2001.

"Rudi Voeller has a contract with Leverkusen running to 2003 and he will end his work for the DFB on May 31, 2001," Calmund said.

"Bayer extended a helping hand to the DFB following Euro 2000 in many areas and got beaten up for it. No one can expect that from us again. The DFB has enough time to look for another trainer."

Rudi Voeller: Staying put at Leverkusen

YUGOSLAV CLUBS ORDERED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

The Yugoslav football association ordered Belgrade teams Red Star and Partizan to play their next two home matches behind closed doors last week after rioting fans forced the derby game to be abandoned.

The match was called off after only three minutes when spectators threw fireworks and plastic seats on to the pitch and attacked several players.

The association has still to decide whether to order a replay of the match, which was scoreless when it was stopped.

The local derby has a long history of fan violence, but the latest trouble at the Red Star stadium appeared to be linked to the political situation following the ousting of president Slobodan Milosevic.

Partizan said their supporters had been provoked by banners taunting them about the club's association with the Milosevic regime.

Belgrade fans celebrate with flares during a match against Leicester City. Scenes at the Red Star Belgrade vs Partizan match were much more fiery than this.

FINES AFTER MASS BRAWL

First Division clubs Crystal Palace and Nottingham Forest were both fined by the Football Association last week following a mass brawl.

Palace were fined 20,000 pounds and Forest 15,000 pounds for the ugly scenes on August 28 which followed the sending-off of Forest goalkeeper Dave Beasant.

Both clubs were also warned by the F.A. about their future conduct.

This fight has lead to fines for both Crystal Palace and Nottingham Forest.

WORLD

TAYLOR MADE

Leicester boss given England caretaker job

Leicester City coach Peter Taylor was named as caretaker manager of the England team for one match as the Football Association vowed to shake up the way the national team is run.

Taylor, who was sacked as England under-21 manager two years ago, will be assisted by Manchester United's assistant manager Steve McLaren for next month's friendly against Italy in Turin on November 15.

In the meantime the FA will continue their search for a full time manager to replace Kevin Keegan, who resigned after England's 1-0 World Cup qualifying defeat by Germany at Wembley.

"We are assembling a coaching team for the long term future of England and want Peter and Steve to part of that team," FA executive director David Davies said.

"They will continue to fulfil all their club responsibilities but, as available they will work on a match by match basis with the senior England coach we are in the process of recruiting.

England new assistant manager Stuart McClaren (left) with caretaker coach Peter Taylor.

Taylor, who took over at Leicester after impressing with England's under-21s and at Gillingham when they were in the second division, described his appointment as "the best feeling of my life."

"It's an absolute honour for me and I have assured the chairman that it won't affect my job at Leicester City."

McLaren, who was a surprise choice as assistant to Alex Ferguson at Manchester United in February 1999, said he was extremely grateful to the manager and United board for allowing him to take up the role.

"It was a bit of a surprise but I'm just so glad to be here," he said. "I'll be doing the same with Peter as I have for the last six or seven years with Jim Smith at Derby and Alex at Manchester United - working day in day out with the players and giving advice and support."

ROBSON REFUSED RELEASE

Newcastle United manager Bobby Robson has spoken of his disappointment at not being allowed to become the caretaker coach of the England team.

Newcastle issued a statement after last weekend's 1-0 home defeat by Everton saying it had rejected a request by the Football Association (FA) to let Robson take over for the next seven games on a part-time basis.

"I spoke to the chairman (Freddy Shepherd) immediately after the match, he was very adamant about it, there was no doubt in his mind the true feelings of the board and they just could not release me," 67-year-old Robson told BBC television.

"I was naturally very flattered and felt very honoured that the FA wanted me and I felt very proud but of course I understand and appreciate the board's decision and their feelings and also their difficulty.

Bobby Robson: Disapointed.

"I don't think there's anything I can do but accept the board's decision."

Robson, who coached England for eight years in the 1980s, was asked if he was disappointed by Newcastle's decision.

"I was in a way but I understand my chairman's feelings and they have to protect their interests and their commitment to football, to Newcastle and this area," Robson said.

WORLD RESULTS...WORLD RESULTS...WORLD RESULTS...

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Aston Villa 0 Sunderland 0, Bradford City 0 Ipswich Town 2, Charlton Athletic 1 Middlesbrough 0, Chelsea 6 Coventry City 1, Liverpool 1 Leicester City 0, Man Utd 3 Leeds United 0, Newcastle United 0 Everton 1, Tottenham Hotspur 3 Derby County 1, West Ham Utd 1 Arsenal 2, Southampton v Manchester City (1900).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Manchester Utd	**10**	**6**	**3**	**1**	**26**	**8**	**21**
2. Arsenal	10	6	3	1	17	10	21
3. Liverpool	10	5	3	2	17	13	18
4. Newcastle United	10	5	1	4	11	9	16
5. Leicester City	10	4	4	2	7	6	16
6. Ipswich Town	10	4	3	3	14	11	15
7. Charlton Athletic	10	4	3	3	16	16	15
8. Tottenham Hotspur	10	4	2	4	15	14	14
9. Leeds United	9	4	2	3	14	13	14
10. Chelsea	10	3	4	3	19	14	13
11. Aston Villa	9	3	4	2	11	8	13
12. Sunderland	10	3	4	3	8	11	13
13. Everton	10	3	3	4	13	16	12
14. Manchester City	9	3	2	4	12	14	11
15. Coventry City	10	3	2	5	11	21	11
16. Middlesbrough	10	2	4	4	15	16	10
17. Southampton	9	2	4	3	12	13	10
18. West Ham United	10	1	5	4	12	14	8
19. Bradford City	10	1	3	6	4	16	6
20. Derby County	10	0	5	5	15	26	5

LEADING SCORERS
- - Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Chelsea)
- - Michael Owen (Liverpool)
- - Marians Pahars (Southampton), Thierry Henry Arsenal), Alan Smith (Leeds United)
- - Francis Jeffers (Everton), Alen Boksic Middlesbrough), Marcus Stewart (Ipswich Town), eddy Sheringham (Manchester United), Paolo di Canio West Ham United), David Beckham (Man United)

ENGLISH FIRST DIVISION

heff Wed 1 Birmingham 0, Blackburn 2 Grimsby 0. rewe 0 Wimbledon 4, Crystal Palace 2 Portsmouth 3, illingham 0 Barnsley 0, Huddersfield 0 Preston 0, orwich 4 Sheffield United 2, Nottingham 0 Watford 2, ueens Park 0 Burnley 1, Stockport 4 Bolton 3, Tranere 2 W. Bromwich 2, Wolverhampton 0 Fulham 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
. Fulham	**12**	**11**	**1**	**0**	**31**	**6**	**34**
Watford	12	10	2	0	27	9	32
Birmingham	13	8	2	3	22	11	26
Bolton	13	7	4	2	20	13	25
Preston	13	7	4	2	16	9	25
Burnley	13	7	4	2	15	11	25
West Bromwich	14	7	3	4	15	15	24
Sheffield United	12	6	2	4	15	13	20
Portsmouth	14	5	4	5	17	18	19
). Blackburn	12	5	3	4	18	13	18
. Nottingham Forest	12	5	3	4	12	15	18
. Wimbledon	12	4	5	3	20	11	17
. Barnsley	13	4	4	5	20	22	16
. Gillingham	14	3	7	4	18	21	16
. Tranmere	14	4	3	7	15	21	15
. Norwich	12	3	4	5	13	16	13
. Wolverhampton	13	2	6	5	11	12	12
. Queen's Park Rangers	12	2	5	5	12	18	11
. Grimsby	12	3	2	7	8	15	11
. Stockport	14	2	5	7	16	27	11
. Crewe	13	2	3	8	8	19	9
. Crystal Palace	13	2	2	9	10	20	8
. Sheff Wed	13	2	2	9	9	23	8

NGLISH SECOND DIVISION

istol City 4 Reading 0, Bury 2 Bournemouth 5, lchester United 2 Cambridge United 0, Luton Town 3 entford 1, Northampton Town 2 Oldham Athletic 1, terborough United 1 Notts County 0, Rotherham ited 3 Oxford United 1, Stoke City 3 Millwall 2, ndon Town 1 Bristol Rovers 3, Wigan Athletic 1 Port le 0, Wrexham 1 Swansea City 0, Wycombe nderers 3 Walsall 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Walsall	**14**	**8**	**4**	**2**	**26**	**15**	**28**
Reading	14	8	2	4	30	16	26
Wigan	13	6	6	1	17	11	24
4. Wycombe	14	7	3	4	16	11	24
5. Rotherham	14	7	3	4	21	19	24
6. Millwall	12	7	2	3	26	12	23
7. Bury	14	7	2	5	15	17	23
8. Cambridge Utd	12	6	3	3	20	12	21
9. Northampton	12	6	3	3	15	10	21
10. Stoke	12	5	5	2	20	12	20
11. Bristol Rovers	12	4	6	2	21	13	18
12. Peterborough	14	5	3	6	14	18	18
13. Wrexham	12	5	2	5	20	22	17
14. Brentford	12	4	5	3	13	19	17
15. Swansea	12	4	3	5	10	12	15
16. Notts County	14	4	3	7	14	21	15
17. Bristol City	12	3	5	4	13	10	14
18. Colchester	14	3	5	6	12	15	14
19. Bournemouth	14	2	7	5	20	20	13
20. Port Vale	13	3	3	7	14	20	12
21. Swindon	12	3	3	6	10	21	12
22. Oldham	14	3	3	8	15	27	12
23. Luton	14	2	5	7	13	21	11
24. Oxford Utd	14	1	2	11	10	31	5

ENGLISH THIRD DIVISION

Barnet 1 Halifax Town 0, Blackpool 2 Macclesfield Town 0, Cardiff City 2 Mansfield Town 0, Cheltenham Town 0 Rochdale 2, Chesterfield 1 Brighton & Hove Albion 0, Hartlepool United 1- Plymouth Argyle 1, Hull City 1 Southend United 1, Kidderminster Harriers 0 Exeter City 0, Scunthorpe United 1 Darlington 1, Shrewsbury Town 3 Lincoln City 2, Torquay United 4 Carlisle United 2, York City 1 Leyton Orient 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Chesterfield	**14**	**10**	**3**	**1**	**33**	**13**	**33**
2. Rochdale	14	8	4	2	24	13	28
3. Brighton	14	8	2	4	23	13	26
4. Cheltenham	14	8	2	4	20	13	26
5. Leyton Orient	14	7	5	2	20	15	26
6. Southend	14	6	6	2	17	14	24
7. Kidderminster	14	5	6	3	15	14	21
8. Darlington	14	5	5	4	14	11	20
9. Barnet	14	5	5	4	18	16	20
10. Macclesfield	14	5	5	4	20	20	20
11. Cardiff	13	4	7	2	20	16	19
12. Scunthorpe	14	5	4	5	13	12	19
13. Hull	14	4	7	3	14	14	19
14. Mansfield	14	4	5	5	23	25	17
15. Shrewsbury	14	5	2	7	15	21	17
16. Blackpool	14	4	4	6	20	22	16
17. Hartlepool	14	4	4	6	19	22	16
18. Exeter	14	3	6	5	12	14	15
19. Plymouth	14	4	3	7	17	21	15
20. Lincoln City	13	3	5	5	16	18	14
21. York	14	3	3	8	11	20	12
22. Torquay	14	3	2	9	16	29	11
23. Carlisle	14	2	3	9	12	23	9
24. Halifax	14	1	4	9	13	26	7

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Hibernian 6 Hearts 2, St Johnstone 2 Rangers 1, Aberdeen 0 Dunfermline 0, Celtic 2 Dundee United 1, Dundee 1 Motherwell 2, Kilmarnock 2 St Mirren 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Celtic	**12**	**11**	**1**	**0**	**28**	**9**	**34**
2. Hibernian	12	9	2	1	26	7	29
3. Kilmarnock	12	7	2	3	16	12	23
4. Rangers	11	7	1	3	22	15	22
5. Dundee	12	4	4	4	15	12	16
6. Hearts	12	4	4	4	19	17	16
7. St Johnstone	12	3	5	4	11	18	14
8. Aberdeen	11	2	6	3	11	13	12
9. Motherwell	12	3	2	7	11	16	11
10. Dunfermline Athletic	12	2	4	6	8	17	10
11. St Mirren	12	2	1	9	7	18	7
12. Dundee United	12	0	2	10	7	27	2

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

Ayr United 3 Alloa Athletic 1, Clyde 2 Ross County 2, Inverness CT 2 Livingston 2, Morton 0 Falkirk 4, Raith 1 Airdrie 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Falkirk	**11**	**8**	**1**	**2**	**24**	**17**	**25**
2. Livingston	11	7	2	2	24	13	23
3. Ayr	11	6	4	1	23	14	22
4. Raith	11	4	3	4	18	12	15
5. Clyde	11	4	3	4	18	17	15
6. Inverness CT	11	4	2	5	22	20	14
7. Ross County	11	3	3	5	9	16	12
8. Morton	11	3	1	7	8	19	10
9. Alloa	11	2	3	6	11	23	9
10. Airdrie	11	1	4	6	15	21	7

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION

Arbroath 0 Berwick 2, Queens Park 0 Forfar 0, Stenhousemuir 2 Clyebank 1, Stirling 0 Queen of the South 1, Stranraer 0 Partick 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Clydebank	**11**	**6**	**1**	**4**	**17**	**11**	**19**
2. Partick	11	5	4	2	16	13	19
3. Queens Park	11	5	3	3	7	7	18
4. Stranraer	11	5	2	4	16	14	17
5. Berwick	11	4	4	3	18	18	16
6. Arbroath	11	3	4	4	13	12	13
7. Queen of South	11	4	1	6	16	17	13
8. Stenhousemuir	11	4	1	6	17	20	13
9. Stirling	11	2	5	4	12	15	11
10. Forfar	11	2	5	4	14	19	11

SCOTTISH THIRD DIVISION

Albion 1 Cowdenbeath 0, Brechin 3 Dumbarton 1, East Stirling 1 Montrose 2, Hamilton 4 Elgin City 1, Peterhead 0 East Fife 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Brechin	**11**	**8**	**2**	**1**	**28**	**13**	**26**
2. Hamilton	11	8	1	2	26	9	25
3. Cowdenbeath	11	8	1	2	23	7	25
4. Peterhead	11	5	3	3	16	11	18
5. East Fife	11	4	4	3	14	13	16
6. Albion	11	3	4	4	8	12	13
7. East Stirling	11	3	2	6	12	22	11
8. Elgin	11	2	4	5	13	19	10
9. Montrose	11	1	2	8	6	26	5
10. Dumbarton	11	1	1	9	11	25	4

ITALIAN SERIE A

Bari 0 Atalanta 2, Brescia 1 Fiorentina 1, Napoli 1 Bologna 5, Perugia 3 Parma 1, Reggina 0 Lecce 1, AS Roma 3 Vicenza 1, Verona 2 Lazio 0, AC Milan 2 Juventus 2, Udinese 3 Inter Milan 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. AS Roma	**3**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**9**	**1**	**9**
2. Udinese	3	2	1	0	8	3	7
3. Atalanta Bergamo	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
4. Juventus	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
5. Bologna	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
6. Verona	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
7. Fiorentina	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
8. Lazio	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
9. AC Milan	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
10. Perugia	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
11. Lecce	3	1	1	1	2	5	4
12. Reggina	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
13. Inter Milan	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
14. Parma	3	0	2	1	3	5	2
15. Brescia	3	0	2	1	3	5	2
16. Bari	3	0	1	2	1	5	1
17. Vicenza	3	0	0	3	2	7	0
18. Napoli	3	0	0	3	3	10	0

LEADING SCORERS
3 - Andriy Shevchenko (AC Milan), Gabriel Batistuta, Francesco Totti (both AS Roma). Roberto Muzzi (Udinese)
2 - Fausto Rossini (Atalanta Bergamo), Giuseppe Signori (Bologna), Leandro (Fiorentina), Darko Kovacevic (Juventus), Simone Inzaghi, Sinisa Mihajlovic (Lazio), Marcio Amoroso (Parma), Massimo Marazzina (Reggina), Vincenzo Montella (AS Roma), Vincenzo Iaquinta (Udinese)

SPANISH PRIMERA LIGA

Alaves 1 Espanyol 0, Athletic Bilbao 0 Las Palmas 3, Malaga 2 Villarreal 1, Racing Santander 4 Numancia 2, Rayo Vallecano 4 Real Sociedad 1, Real Oviedo 3 Celta Vigo 1, Valladolid 1 Osasuna 1, Barcelona 2 Real Madrid 0, Deportivo Coruna 1 Real Mallorca 1, Valencia 1 Real Zaragoza 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Valencia	**6**	**4**	**1**	**1**	**15**	**4**	**13**
2. Rayo Vallecano	6	3	3	0	14	4	12
3. Barcelona	6	4	0	2	14	7	12
4. Real Madrid	6	3	2	1	12	7	11
5. Alaves	6	3	2	1	9	4	11
6. Deportivo Coruna	6	3	2	1	9	5	11
7. Celta Vigo	6	3	1	2	9	8	10
8. Valladolid	6	1	5	0	5	3	8
9. Real Oviedo	6	2	2	2	7	6	8
10. Las Palmas	6	2	2	2	9	12	8
11. Villarreal	6	2	2	2	5	8	8
12. Malaga	6	2	1	3	9	11	7
13. Numancia	6	2	1	3	6	10	7
14. Athletic Bilbao	6	2	1	3	6	11	7
15. Osasuna	6	1	3	2	5	8	6
16. Racing Santander	6	1	2	3	8	12	5
17. Real Mallorca	6	1	2	3	5	10	5
18. Real Sociedad	6	1	2	3	7	18	5
19. Espanyol	6	1	1	4	4	7	4
20. Real Zaragoza	6	0	3	3	4	7	3

LEADING SCORERS
6 - Juan Sanchez (Valencia)
5 - Javi Moreno (Alaves)

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

SC Freiburg 3 Schalke 04 1, VfL Bochum 1 Hansa Rostock 2, Bayer Leverkusen 2 Borussia Dortmund 0, Bayern Munich 3 TSV 1860 Munich 1, VfB Stuttgart 2 Sp Vgg Unterhaching 2, VfL Wolfsburg 6 Cologne 0, Hertha Berlin 3 Energie Cottbus 1, Hamburg SV 2 Eintracht Frankfurt 0, Kaiserslautern 2 Werder Bremen 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Bayern Munich	**9**	**6**	**0**	**3**	**19**	**9**	**18**
2. Hertha Berlin	9	6	0	3	23	14	18
3. Schalke 04	9	5	2	2	20	8	17
4. Borussia Dortmund	9	5	1	3	14	14	16
5. Hamburg SV	9	4	3	2	21	17	15
6. Bayer Leverkusen	9	4	3	2	13	11	15
7. VfL Wolfsburg	9	4	2	3	23	14	14
8. Kaiserslautern	9	4	2	3	11	8	14
9. Hansa Rostock	9	4	1	4	6	13	13
10. SC Freiburg	9	3	3	3	13	8	12
11. 1860 Munich	9	3	3	3	12	15	12
12. Eintracht Frankfurt	9	3	2	4	11	14	11
13. VfB Stuttgart	9	2	4	3	14	17	10
14. VfL Bochum	9	3	1	5	8	17	10
15. Werder Bremen	9	2	3	4	12	14	9
16. Cologne	9	2	2	5	12	19	8
17. Energie Cottbus	9	2	1	6	9	20	7
18. SpVgg Unterhaching	9	1	3	5	9	18	6

LEADING SCORERS
8 - Sergei Barbarez (Hamburg SV)
6 - Paul Agostino (TSV 1860 Munich), Heiko Herrlich (Borussia Dortmund, Carsten Jancker (Bayern Munich), Emile Mpenza, Ebbe Sand (both Schalke 04) Jonathan Akpoborie (VfL Wolfsburg)

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

Groningen 4 Fortuna Sittard 0, AZ Alkmaar 0 Vitesse Arnhem 2, Utrecht 5 RBC Roosendaal 3, Graafschap Doetinchem 1 Willem II Tilburg 1, Twente Enschede 3 Sparta Rotterdam 1, Feyenoord 2 Heerenveen 0, Ajax Amsterdam 4 Roda JC Kerkrade 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Vitesse Arnhem	**9**	**7**	**1**	**1**	**23**	**12**	**22**
2. Feyenoord	6	6	0	0	16	5	18
3. PSV Eindhoven	7	4	2	1	11	6	14
4. Ajax Amsterdam	9	4	2	3	20	14	14
5. NAC Breda	8	4	1	3	15	9	13
6. Willem II Tilburg	8	3	4	1	16	11	13
7. Twente Enschede	9	3	4	2	16	14	13
8. Roda JC Kerkrade	7	3	3	1	16	12	12
9. NEC Nijmegen	8	2	6	0	13	9	12
10. RKC Waalwijk	9	3	3	3	9	9	12
11. Groningen	10	3	2	5	15	19	11
12. Utrecht	8	3	1	4	15	15	10
13. Graafschap Doetinchem	9	3	1	5	15	18	10
14. Heerenveen	7	2	3	2	9	10	9
15. AZ Alkmaar	8	3	0	5	13	18	9
16. Sparta Rotterdam	8	1	1	6	13	23	4
17. RBC Roosendaal	9	1	0	8	14	26	3
18. Fortuna Sittard	7	0	2	5	3	20	2

LEADING SCORERS
9 - Ali Elkhattabi (Sparta Rotterdam)
7 - Robin Nelisse (AZ Alkmaar) Gorgi Hristov (NEC Nijmegen) Igor Gluscevic (Utrecht)

BELGIAN FIRST DIVISION

Mechelen 4 Eendracht 1, Club Bruges 5 Sint-Truiden 0, La Louviere 2 Beveren 3, Germinal B. 3 Westerlo 1, Ghent 2 Lierse 3, Lokeren 0 Antwerp 1, Exc. Mouscron 1 Anderlecht 2, Genk 4 Harelbeke 0, Standard L. 4 Charleroi 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Club Bruges	**10**	**10**	**0**	**0**	**39**	**8**	**30**
2. Anderlecht	10	8	2	0	31	12	26
3. Standard Liege	10	7	1	2	31	12	22
4. Lierse	10	6	1	3	21	14	19
5. Charleroi	10	6	0	4	18	20	18
6. Westerlo	10	5	2	3	19	18	17
7. Excelsior Mouscron	10	5	1	4	22	12	16
8. Ghent	10	5	1	4	23	20	16
9. Germinal Beerschot	10	5	0	5	18	17	15
10. Genk	9	3	4	2	14	10	13
11. Lokeren	10	3	4	3	12	12	13
12. Beveren	10	3	2	5	8	18	11
13. Antwerp	9	3	0	6	8	15	9
14. Harelbeke	10	2	1	7	13	31	7
15. Sint Truiden	10	1	3	6	9	20	6
16. La Louviere	10	1	3	6	8	21	6
17. Mechelen	10	1	2	7	14	26	5
18. Aalst	10	1	1	8	7	29	4

FRENCH PREMIER LEAGUE

Olympique Marseille 0 Lille 1. Toulouse 2 Paris St Germain 3. Girondins Bordeaux 1 Olympique Lyon 1, Nantes 1 Stade Rennes 0, RC Lens 1 Sedan 1, En Avant Guingamp 2 Strasbourg 1, St Etienne 2 Metz 0. Monaco 1 AJ Auxerre 1, Troyes 0 Bastia 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Paris St Germain	**12**	**7**	**3**	**2**	**26**	**16**	**24**
2. Bastia	12	6	2	4	15	12	20
3. Lille	12	5	4	3	14	9	19
4. Monaco	12	5	4	3	19	15	19
5. Sedan	12	5	4	3	16	14	19
6. Nantes	12	5	3	4	19	17	18
7. En Avant Guingamp	12	5	3	4	15	14	18
8. Girondins Bordeaux	12	4	5	3	17	13	17
9. Troyes	12	4	5	3	17	15	17
10. RC Lens	12	4	5	3	12	12	17
11. Stade Rennes	12	4	3	5	13	11	15
12. Olympique Lyon	11	3	6	2	12	10	15
13. Metz	12	4	3	5	10	13	15
14. Olympique Marseille	12	4	2	6	12	15	14
15. AJ Auxerre	12	4	2	6	11	14	14
16. St Etienne	12	3	4	5	19	22	13
17. Strasbourg	12	3	1	8	11	29	10
18. Toulouse	11	1	3	7	10	17	6

LEADING SCORERS
9 - Laurent Robert (Paris St Germain)
7 - Frederic Nee (Bastia)

PORTUGUESE PREMIER LEAGUE

Farense 1 Uniao Leiria 1, Maritimo 2 Estrela Ama. 0, Vitoria Gui. 1 Beira Mar 1, Alverca 5 Aves 1, Gil Vicente 0 Salgueiros 2, Belenenses 2 Braga 1, Sporting 0 Porto 1, Pacos F. 0 Benfica 0, Campomaiorense 0 Boavista 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Porto	**8**	**7**	**0**	**1**	**16**	**4**	**21**
2. Salgueiros	8	6	0	2	13	8	18
3. Braga	8	5	2	1	14	9	17
4. Sporting	8	5	1	2	16	9	16
5. Boavista	8	4	3	1	13	6	15
6. Belenenses	8	4	3	1	12	7	15
7. Pacos Ferreira	8	4	1	3	14	8	13
8. Maritimo	8	4	1	3	7	5	13
9. Benfica	8	3	3	2	10	8	12
10. Farense	8	3	2	3	9	9	11
11. Uniao Leiria	8	2	4	2	8	12	10
12. Alverca	8	2	3	3	11	11	9
13. Vitoria Guimaraes	8	2	2	4	11	14	8
14. Aves	8	1	2	5	12	19	5
15. Campomaiorense	8	0	5	3	6	16	5
16. Estrela Amadora	8	1	1	6	6	13	4
17. Beira Mar	8	0	3	5	9	18	3
18. Gil Vicente	8	0	2	6	3	14	2

CROATIAN FIRST DIVISION

Marsonia 0 Hajduk 5, Sibenik 1 Rijeka 0, Cibalia 1 Dinamo 1, Slaven Belupo 7 Varteks 1. Cakovec 2 Hrv. Dragovoljac 1, Zagreb 3 Osijek 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

SOCCER WEEKLY	TOTAL							HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
SYDNEY UNITED	2	2	0	0	4	1	6	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	2	0
MARCONI STALLIONS	2	2	0	0	3	0	6	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	0
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	2	2	0	0	4	2	6	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	2	1
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	2	1	1	0	2	0	4	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
CARLTON SC	2	1	1	0	4	3	4	1	0	1	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	2	1
PERTH GLORY	2	1	1	0	2	1	4	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
BRISBANE STRIKERS	2	1	0	1	3	2	3	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	2	0
SOUTH MELBOURNE	2	1	0	1	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	3	2
FOOTBALL KINGZ	2	1	0	1	2	3	3	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	2	0	2	0	3	3	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	2
EASTERN PRIDE	2	0	1	1	2	3	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	2
NORTHERN SPIRIT	2	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2
NEWCASTLE UNITED	2	0	1	1	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	1
CANBERRA COSMOS	2	0	0	2	1	3	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	1
PARRAMATTA POWER	2	0	0	2	1	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	2
ADELAIDE CITY FORCE	2	0	0	2	1	5	0	2	0	0	2	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0

FOOTBALL KINGZ 2
(Stevens 22 & 53)
EASTERN PRIDE 1
(Hutchinson 10)

Venue: Ericsson Stadium **Crowd:** 4,366. **Referee:** D. Rugg.
Cautions: Puca (EP) 19, Jerdjevic (EP) 65, Bell (EP) 66m, Nilo (EP) 68, Van Steeden (FK) 75, Ibrahim (FK) 80.
Teams: FOOTBALL KINGZ: Marsh, Lines (Ibrahim 76), Perry, Osman, Jackson, Urlovic, Ngata (Davis 70), Vicelich, Cartwright, Van Steeden, Stevens (Silva 61).
EASTERN PRIDE: Jevdjevic, Fak, Kim, Deak (Sekulovski 65), Katz, Bell, Roach, Puca, Hutchinson, Nilo (McNichol 83), Wearne.

NEWCASTLE UNITED 0
BRISBANE STRIKERS 2
(Meredith 42, Grierson 44)

Venue: Marathon Stadium **Crowd:** 15,123. **Referee:** S. Micallef.
Cautions: Harris (BS) 19, McLaren (BS) 27, Tsekenis (NU) 33, Stefanutto (BS) 63, Meredith (BS) 85, Grierson 94.
Teams: NEWCASTLE: Swancott, Dodd, Roberts, Zoricich, McManus, Buonavoglia, Tsekenis, Wieczorek, Surjan (McBreen 66), M Wilson (Trpcevski 74).
BRISBANE: Duke, North, McLaren, Bell, Steffanuto, McKain, Grierson, Harris, Foster, Meredith, Srhoj.

LEADING GOALSCORERS
After Round Two

THOMPSON Archie	(Carlton SC)	3
ARAMBASIC Zlatko	(Sydney United)	2
AWARITEFE Francis	(Sydney United)	2
GIBSON Chad	(Marconi Stallions)	2
GRIERSON Peter	(Brisbane Strikers)	2
STEVEN Tim	(Football Kingz)	2
VLAHOS Andy	(South Melbourne)	2

NORTHERN SPIRIT 0
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0

Venue: North Sydney Oval. **Crowd:** 10,254. **Referee:** C. Dionis
Cautions: Mendez (NS) 34, Arnold (NS) 60, Spencer (NS) 61, Kohler (SO) 64, Moric (SO) 69.
Teams: NORTHERN SPIRIT: Henderson, Cunico, Langdon (Sobczyk 87), Bingley, Slater, Mendez (Enes 65), T.Cranney, Burgess, Spencer, Bilokapic, Arnold.
SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Bolton, Sinozic, Wilson, Kohler, Baillie, Juric, Marusic (Augerinos 87), Moric, Sarr (Owens 65), Halpin, Carle.

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 0
SYDNEY UNITED 2
(Awaritefe 17 & 29)

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium. **Crowd:** 3,467. **Referee:** A.Nardi.
Cautions: Palapanis (SU) 14 & 76, Kovacevic (AC) 58, Hassell (AC) 79, Hughes (SU) 90.
Red Card: Sabljak (AC) 56, Palapanis (SU) 76.
Teams: ADELAIDE: Cagalj, Lagati (Tunbridge 46), Kovacevic, Bucciarelli, Brain, Veart, Sabljak, Hassell, Rees, Pantelis, Day.
SYDNEY UNITED: Hughes, Foxe (Savoca 74), Burt, Plesa, Palapanis, Arambasic (Silic 88), Arrarte, Pondeljak, Genc, Awaritefe (Menapi 79), Talevski.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Sydney United's FRANCIS AWARITEFE: Bagged a double against Adelaide City to help the Bravehearts to the top of the ladder.

MARCONI STALLIONS 1
(Costanzo 50)
CANBERRA COSMOS 0

Venue: Marconi Stallions **Crowd:** 4,083. **Referee:** B. Hugo.
Cautions: Nil.
Red Card: Milin (CC) 40.
Teams: MARCONI: Aceski: C.Gibson, Farah, Costanzo, Longo, Renaud (J.Gibson 87): Bove, McDonald (Junior 82), Bell: Tome, J.Maisano.
CANBERRA: Smith: Purdue, Popovich, Hooker, Milin, Arranz (Imaya 85): Phillips, Ravanello (Hagger 76th), Castro: Angelucci, Scott (Lyons 85).

PERTH GLORY 1
(Despotovski 8)
SOUTH MELBOURNE 0

Venue: Perth Oval. **Crowd:** 14,081. **Referee:** M. Breeze.
Cautions: Wehrman (PG) 11, M.Petkovic (SM) 37, Mori (PG) 39, Liparoti (SM) 59, Panpoulos (SM 69, Susa (SM) 85.
Red Card: Trajkovski (PG) 69, Panapoulos (SM) 82.
Teams: PERTH: J.Petkovic, Trajkovski, Harnwell, Naven, Miller, Maloney (Faria 77), Despotovski, Wehrman, Junior, Mori, Pyrce.
STH MELBOURNE: M.Petkovic, Iosifidis (Liparoti 14), De Amicis, Durakovic, Panapoulos, Coveny, Trimboli, Anastasiadis (Boutsianis 59), Kalogeracos (Clarkson 71), Susa, Kisnorbo.

CARLTON SC 2
(Thompson 31, Terminello 91)
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 2
(Young 58, Stanton 82)

Venue: Bob Jane Stadium. **Crowd:** 1,446. **Referee:** E. Lennie.
Cautions: Middleby (CSC) 37, Mennillo (WW) 65, Petrovski (WW) 67, Chipperfield (WW) 84, Horvat (CSC) 86.
Red Card: Marth (CSC) 12.
Teams: CARLTON SC: Anastasiadis, McPherson, Horvat, Deans, Vasilevski (Anthopoulos 62), Terminello, Marth, Lapsansky, Middleby, Thompson, Packer (Motsiopoulos 84).
WOLLONGONG: Beltrame, Blake, Cervinski, Souris, Horsley, Reid, Huxley (Stanton), Chipperfield, Mennillo, Young (Lucas 78), Petrovski.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 2
(Kiratzoglou 44, Porter 56)
PARRAMATTA POWER 1
(Griffiths 75)

Venue: Knights Stadium. **Crowd:** 5,980. **Referee:** P.Mur.
Cautions: Miller (PP) 7, Barrett (PP) 14, R. Vargas (MK) 44.
Teams: MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: Acevski, Vargas, Ognenovski (Zold 37, Pelikan, 64), Vukadin, Rajher (Bosevski 84), Porter, Zelic, Sulemani, Magdic, Kiratzoglou, Vargas.
PARRAMATTA: Pogliacomi, Barrett, Elrich, Orlic, Tobin, Eagleton (Blagojevic 64), Miller, Griffiths, Berry, Clark, Lee (Thompson 64).

ROUND THREE

FRIDAY OCTOBER 27

Football Kingz	vs	Newcastle United
Parramatta Power	vs	Brisbane Strikers

SATURDAY OCTOBER 28

Canberra Cosmos	vs	Melbourne Knights
Wollongong Wolves	vs	Marconi Stallions
Eastern Pride	vs	Northern Spirit

SUNDAY OCTOBER 29

Sydney United	vs	Perth Glory
South Melbourne	vs	Carlton SC
Sydney Olympic	vs	Adelaide City